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CDSCO blames TN, flags lapses in cough syrup tests

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

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India denies excluding women scribes from Afghan press meet

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

- Only a select group of male journalists and Afghan embassy officials were allowed to attend. The exclusion of women journalists triggered sharp backlash from Opposition leaders.

A major political controversy erupted on Saturday after women journalists were reportedly barred from attending a press conference held by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi at the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) swiftly distanced itself, stating it had "no involvement" in organising the event.

The presser followed bilateral talks between Muttaqi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. While Muttaqi addressed key regional issues, including India–Afghanistan ties, trade, humanitarian assistance, and security cooperation, only a select group of male journalists and Afghan embassy officials were allowed to attend. The exclusion of women journalists triggered sharp backlash from opposition leaders, press bodies, and civil society.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi addresseed a press conference in New Delhi on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

The Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) strongly condemned the move as "highly discriminatory" and urged the Indian government to take up the matter with the Afghan Embassy to prevent future gender-based exclusions in media interactions. "This goes against the democratic ethos and constitutional values that uphold gender equality," the IWPC said. Meanwhile, government sources indicated that the Indian side had suggested inclusion of women journalists, but the decision was taken solely by Taliban officials accompanying Muttaqi. The MEA reiterated that it had no role in organising the interaction.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi called the incident an "insult" to India's most competent women, questioning Modi's silence and asking if his support for women's rights was "just convenient posturing from one election to the next."

Muttaqi's visit, which began on 9 October and continues until 16 October , marks the first high-level Taliban delegation to India since the group took control of Afghanistan in August 2021. *—PTI*

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B'desh to indict pregnant Indian, 3 others for intrusion

DHAKA, 11 OCT

A court in Bangladesh is set to indict a pregnant Indian woman and three others on charges of entering the country illegally, a move that could pave the way for their repatriation months after they were reportedly pushed in by Indian law enforcement agencies suspecting them of being Bangladeshi nationals, officials said on Saturday. "Senior judicial magistrate Ashraful Haque has set 23 October for the hearing on charge framing against Sonali Khatun and the three others, alongside two infants. They have been languishing in jail for the past four months," Chief Public Prosecutor (northwestern) Chapai Nawabganj M Abdul Wadud said. Wadud said if they plead guilty to the charges during the hearing, it would pave the way for their repatriation. "*—PTI*

Medical student from Odisha 'gangraped' in WB

KOLKATA, 11 OCT

A medical college student from Odisha was allegedly raped by unidentified men in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district, police said on Saturday. The police began an investigation into the incident that occurred outside the private medical college campus in Durgapur on Friday night when the second-year student went out with one of her friends for dinner, her family members said. The survivor, from Jaleswar in Odisha, is undergoing treatment at the college hospital and gave her statement to the police, an officer said. Following the incident that occurred after last year's RG Kar hospital rape-murder case, the opposition BJP claimed that law and order "totally collapsed" under Mamata Banerjee's rule, the TMC said such matters should not be politicised.*—PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

SC to deliver Karur stampede order on 13 October

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

The Supreme Court will pronounce its order on 13 October on multiple pleas seeking an independent probe into the Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and NV Anjaria had earlier questioned the Madras High Court's move to form a special investigation team (SIT), despite the matter being heard by a division bench in Madurai. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by actor Vijay, objected to adverse high court remarks, arguing they were passed without hearing the party. TVK seeks a probe under SC supervision, citing concerns over impartiality if led solely by Tamil Nadu Police. BJP leaders Uma Anandan and GS Mani have also sought a CBI investigation. *—PTI*

Hope floats again for trade deal as US envoy meets PM

Trump slaps 100% tariffs on China over rare minerals

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Even as uncertainty looms over fresh US tariffs, hopes for progress on the India-US trade deal were revived on Saturday after US Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior Indian officials.

Gor, who arrived in New Delhi earlier in the day for a six-day visit, discussed key issues such as defence, trade, and critical minerals during meetings with PM Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

The visit comes amid escalating global trade tensions, following US President Donald Trump's announcement of an additional 100 pre cent tariff on Chinese imports starting 1 November or earlier. The new move raises total US tariffs on Chinese goods to 130 per cent, sparking fears of renewed global economic instability.

US Ambassador-designate to India Sergio Gor hands over a gift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

The US decision followed China's restrictions on exports of rare earth elements, key to defence and high-tech industries. China's new rules require special approval for exports of rare earths and ban the shipment of materials used in military goods. Trump slammed the move as "shocking" and "a moral disgrace," also announcing export controls on "critical software," without elaboration.

Amid this backdrop, Gor's visit and his comments offered a diplomatic breather. "The US values its relationship with India," Gor said, expressing confidence that bilateral ties would continue to strengthen. He noted that Trump considers Modi "a great and personal friend," adding they had "an incredible phone call" just before his departure.

India–US ties have been strained recently after the US imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, including an extra 25 per cent duty related to India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India called the action "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable." Differences over H1B visa policies have also caused friction.

However, the recent phone conversations between Modi and Trump have reignited hopes for a breakthrough in stalled trade negotiations.

Gor's visit, alongside Deputy Secretary Michael J Rigas, is his first since being confirmed as US envoy. *— PTI*

>>>More on Pages 6 & 7

TRAINING CENTRES FOR B'LURU

PM launches 2 agri schemes worth ₹35,000 cr

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

- Key projects include artificial insemination training centres in Bengaluru and Jammu & Kashmir, centres of excellence in Amreli and Banas and an IVF lab in Assam.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched two major agricultural schemes totalling Rs 35,440 crore, aimed at boosting pulses production and enhancing farm sector growth in 100 underperforming districts.

At a special event at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, Modi unveiled the Es 24,000-crore Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY) and the Rs 11,440-crore Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses. Both schemes, approved by the Cabinet, will be implemented from the upcoming rabi season until 2030–31.

The PM also inaugurated agriculture-related projects worth over Rs 5,450 crore and laid foundation stones for initiatives worth Rs 815 crore. Key projects include artificial insemination training centres in Bengaluru and Jammu & Kashmir, centres of excellence in Amreli and Banas, an IVF lab in Assam under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, and milk powder plants in Mehsana, Indore, and Bhilwara.

Urging farmers to cut import dependence and boost exports, Modi said farmers are central to achieving the goal of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. He also criticised Congress for long-standing neglect of the farm sector. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with farmers at Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

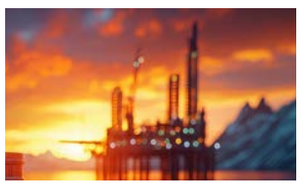
US sanctions 8 Indians, firms over Iran energy trade

WASHINGTON, 11 OCT

The United States has sanctioned eight Indian nationals and multiple India-based companies for allegedly facilitating Iran's energy trade, as part of a broader move targeting over 50 entities and individuals involved in exporting Iranian petroleum and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The US State Department and Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) said the sanctions aim to cut off funding used by Iran to support malign activities and terrorist groups.

The sanctioned Indians include Niti Unmesh Bhatt (Indisol Marketing Pvt Ltd), Piyush Maganlal Javiya (Chemovick Pvt Ltd), and Kamla, Kunal, and Poonam Kasat (Haresh Petrochem Pvt Ltd), all of whom imported Iranian petrochemicals worth millions of dollars between 2024 and 2025.



Shipping operators Varun Pula (Bertha Shipping Inc.), Iyappan Raja (Evie Lines Inc.), and Soniya Shrestha (Vega Star Ship Management Pvt Ltd) were also sanctioned, with their vessels allegedly transporting large volumes of Iranian LPG to China and Pakistan.

Other India-based firms sanctioned include B K Sales Corporation, CJ Shah and Co, Mody Chem, Paarichem Resources LLP, and Shiv Texchem Ltd. *—PTI*

NDA huddles in Delhi; seat deal likely today

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Senior BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda, held extensive discussions in Delhi on Saturday with alliance partners to finalise the seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal said the formula would be announced late Saturday or by 11am Sunday. He dismissed speculative reports on social media, calling them "imaginary figures", after ally Upendra Kushwaha of the Rashtriya Lok Morcha tweeted in frustration over being offered a single-digit seat share.

Sources indicated the BJP and JD(U), led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, will contest 101–102 seats each, while Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is likely to get around 30. Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha is expected to be allotted 7–8 seats, despite pressing for at least 15.

Jaiswal, along with senior leaders Samrat Choudhary and Mangal Pandey, has been in Delhi for talks. The venue of the announcement—Delhi or Patna—will be decided based on leaders' availability.

SNUBBED BY INDIA, AIMIM TO CONTEST 100 SEATS

The AIMIM, which has been spurned by the INDIA bloc in Bihar, on Saturday said it was planning to contest 100 seats in the state polls, five times the number it had fought in the last elections. The party claimed that it will build a "third alternative" in Bihar*—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha also travelled to Delhi after day-long meetings with the CM. *—PTI*

BUS RAMS INTO 9 VEHICLES

BMTC bus mows down girl crossing a road in Rajajinagar

BENGALURU, 11 OCT

Two separate accidents involving Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses left a nine-year-old girl dead and several others injured in the city on Saturday.

In the first incident, nine-year-old Bhuvana was killed after being run over by a BMTC bus near Panchajanya Vidya Peeta school in Rajajinagar. The child was crossing the road with her two sisters when the accident occurred. She suffered severe head injuries and was rushed to hospital, where she was declared dead.

According to police, the bus driver fled the scene and remains absconding. A case has been registered, and efforts are underway to apprehend the accused.

In a separate incident near Chinnaswamy Stadium, a BMTC bus caused a pile-up involving nine vehicles after the driver reportedly suffered a seizure. The accident took place near Gate Number 9 and involved three autorickshaws, three cars, and several two-wheelers.

A BMTC bus rammed into nine vehicles near M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. This caused major a traffic jam on Queen's Road. Damaged vehicles were towed away **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Eyewitnesses said the bus suddenly veered out of control and rammed into stationary vehicles, creating panic in the busy area. One auto driver sustained critical injuries and was hospitalised.

The Cubbon Park Traffic Police arrived at the scene swiftly, cleared the wreckage, and restored traffic flow. The driver has been taken into custody for questioning.

BMTC officials have been notified about both incidents.

Traffic in the area near the stadium was disrupted for over an hour but has since returned to normal. *—Salar News*

Scribe killed for exposing rice racket in K'taka

BAGALKOT, 11 OCT

The death of journalist Basavaraj Kanakond in Bagalkot, initially believed to be a road accident, has been confirmed as murder linked to blackmail over an illegal rice supply racket, police said on Saturday.

Three suspects have been arrested in connection to Kanakond's death on 8 October, which was initially believed to have been because of a road accident, but was later revealed to have been a murder.

The deceased had obtained information about an illegal rice racket, and was blackmailing those implicated. He had threatened to leak it to other journalists, the prime accused confessed to police. The Food and Civil Supplies Department is now investigating the rice network. *—Salar News*

>>>More on Page 2

I never said I wanted CM's chair: DKS

DyCM loses his cool, threatens defamation plaints if his words are twisted

BENGALURU, 11 OCT

Deputy Chief Minister slammed the media for reports that he is vying for the Chief Ministerial post, saying that he would stop speaking to the media if such speculations continued and said he would file defamation suits if his statements were "twisted" again.

"Some media houses are twisting my statement and are trying to create a controversy. I have never said that it is time for me to become the CM. I will file a defamation case if anyone twists my statement," he said on Saturday, after an interaction with citizens at Lalbagh as part of 'Bengaluru Nadige'.

"During the public interaction at Lalbagh, some people said that I must become the CM. But the media has twisted it.... If you are going to twist the news like this, I will not co-operate with you. I won't invite you for the press conferences and other programmes," he added.

"Where have I made such a statement? Let the media not do politics," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar interacts with people during the 'Walk with Bengaluru Citizens" at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, in Bengaluru, on Saturday. He will be visiting several other parks in the coming days **PHOTOS: MOHAMMAD ASAD**

CABINET RESHUFFLE IS A RUMOUR

Speculations are rife about a change of guard and Cabinet reshuffle in the State when the Congress government reaches the halfway mark of its five-year term in November, referred to as the "November revolution". However, Shivakumar dismissed the rumours.

"There is no Cabinet reshuffle, media is publishing rumours. Either the CM or me have to propose a Cabinet reshuffle but we have not. When both of us have not spoken, what is there in it? The High command will decide," Shivakumar said.

This comes as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is set to host a dinner meet for ministers, which further fuelled the rumours. Home Minister G Parameshwara had said that there would be no politics during the meeting. However, Shivakumar offered different details.

"They will discuss the elections for corporations, zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats," he said.

NO TUNEL ROAD THROUGH LALBAGH

Shivakumar said that the upcoming tunnel road would not affect Lalbagh, dismissing previous reports.

"Lalbagh is a public property and we will take all possible steps to protect it. One to 1.5 acres near the parking area at the border of the park will be used for storing equipment needed for tunnel work. It will be restored later. The entry point will be provided towards the Ashoka pillar bordering Lalbagh," he said. "There won't be any damage to Lalbagh."

Shivakumar also the government would allocate Rs 10 crore to set up various facilities for Lalbagh.

"We have decided to set up a gym to suit elderly and women," he said. "We have decided to make a doctor and an ambulance available at Lal Bagh from morning to evening. The toilets at Lal Bagh will be made free from now on." —*Salar News*

> **I have not made any such statement (about becoming CM) nor there is any need for me to make such a statement. I know my destiny. God will give the opportunity when the time is ripe.**
>
> —DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lalbagh toilets will be made free.
- Rs 10 crore to set up gyms, ambulances in Lalbagh.
- "Cabinet reshuffle is a rumour."
- CM's dinner party: "Will discuss elections for corporations, zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats."
- "No tunnel road through Lalbagh."

City police detain six after two men fall to death

BENGALURU, 11 OCT

Bengaluru Police have detained six individuals in connection with the tragic deaths of two labourers, Amir Hussain and Mumtaz Ali Molla, who fell from a 13th-floor balcony at the DNR Arista construction site on Saturday afternoon. The incident occurred around 3.30pm, prompting immediate action from local authorities. A case has been registered against Imperial Build Tech Pvt Ltd, the contractor overseeing the construction, as well as site engineers involved.

"Yesterday, around 3.30pm, two labourers from West Bengal, Amir Hussain and Mumtaz Ali Molla, working at the DNR Arista construction site, died after falling from the 13th-floor under-construction balcony. Imperial Build Tech Pvt Ltd is the contractor on behalf of DNR Arista. A case has been registered at Bellandur PS against Imperial Build Tech Pvt Ltd officials and site engineers. —*ANI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Man arrested for kissing minor at Udupi beach

UDUPI, 11 OCT

A 47-year-old man, identified as Shouqatali, was arrested on Thursday evening for allegedly kissing a 15-year-old boy at Kapu beach in Udupi. According to the local police, the incident occurred when the boy went to the washroom near the beach. Noticing the act, the boy's father raised an alarm, which attracted the attention of nearby beachgoers. The public apprehended Shouqatali as he attempted to flee and handed him over to police on duty. The victim, along with his parents from Mysuru, was on holiday in Udupi. Shouqatali has since been remanded in judicial custody for 15 days under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, as confirmed by police sources. —*Salar News*

Man performs death rituals after daughter elopes

BELAGAVI, 11 OCT

In an unusual incident in Nagoral village, Raibag taluka, a father performed a ritual for his daughter after she eloped with her lover. The resident, who has four daughters, initially reported the youngest missing at Raibag police station, fearing for her safety. Upon learning she had run away with a man from their village, he decided to conduct a "manana" – a ceremony typically reserved for the deceased. Believing his daughter to be "lost" to the family, he invited relatives and neighbours to a meal and performed the rituals as if she had passed away. This incident illustrates the emotional distress and cultural practices surrounding elopement in some communities. —*Salar News*

Kalaburagi boy sentenced to 10yrs for rape, murder

KALABURAGI, 11 OCT

The Principal District and Sessions Court sentenced a 17-year-old boy to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for the kidnapping, rape, and murder of a class 9 girl in Kalaburagi of the State. The chilling incident occurred on 1 November, 2022, when the girl was walking in the afternoon. Her body was later discovered in a sugarcane field, advanced in a state of undress. The local police, led by Aland Circle Inspector Basu Chavan and PSI Tirumalesh, investigated the case. Judge GL Lakshminarayana imposed the sentence under sections 363 and 302 of the IPC and sections 4(2) and 4(6) of the POCSO Act, following arguments presented by government prosecutor SR Narasimhalu. —*Salar News*

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya during a panel discussion at the Bengaluru International Centre on Saturday **PHOTO: X**

Tejasvi slams GBA, says it's unconstitutional

BENGALURU, 11 OCT

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is unconstitutional, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said on Saturday. It goes against the 74th Amendment of the Constitution, he said.

"It is a prime example of Maximum Government, Minimum Governance, bureaucratic redtapism and centralisation," he said at panel discussion on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act at Bengaluru International Centre (BIC) on Friday.

The GBA had held its first meeting on Friday, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The BJP, however, boycotted the event.

"The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is a top-down approach, rather than a bottom-up, citizen-centric one," Surya said. "The inclusion of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister in the GBA, instead of a directly elected and empowered mayor raises further concerns. A similar model with multiple corporations failed in Delhi."

He said that the model would likely lead to financial discrepancies between municipal corporations in the City.

However, he said that with the GBA expanding Bengaluru to 368 wards, citizens could step forward and contest local elections. —*Salar News*

Overnight rains waterlog City roads

BENGALURU, 11 OCT

Overnight rains on Friday accompanied by thunderstorms led to severe waterlogging and traffic congestion across several parts of City, with Rainbow Layout, Pioneer Lake Residency, and Anekal among the worst-affected areas, officials said.

Waterlogging was also reported in Neeladri Nagar (Electronic City), Indiranagar, HSR Layout, and along the Outer Ring Road—one of the City's busiest IT corridors. In several places, vehicles were seen navigating through knee-deep water.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said, "Our officials were alert. No major incidents have been reported. However, there are reports of waterlogging in some parts. Our officials are alert and are on the job."

A huge tree was uprooted in the 3rd Block of Basaveshwaranagar on Friday night, damaging at least two parked vehicles. However, no injuries were reported, officials added.

Neighbouring districts, including Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajnagar, also received widespread rainfall overnight.

A tree uprooted, crushing a car and pushcart on Friday at 27th Cross, Jayanagar 4th Block as heavy rain and wind lashed the City **PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD**

- Light to moderate rain or thundershowers were also likely at isolated places in Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Mysuru, Hassan, Tumakuru and Mandya districts

The India Meteorological Department has forecast a generally cloudy sky with moderate rain or thundershowers likely over City and nearby areas.

Gusty winds with speeds of 30–40kmph are expected. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 29 and 20 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30–40kmph) were also likely at isolated places in Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Mysuru, Hassan, Tumakuru, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Mandya districts.

Data from the meteorological centre showed that between 8.30am on 10 October and 5.30am on 11 October, HAL Airport recorded 20.7mm of rainfall with thundershowers, while the Bengaluru City Observatory registered 67.1mm. —*PTI*

Malayalam actor booked for abusing M'luru cab driver

MANGALURU, 11 OCT

An FIR has been registered against Malayalam actor Jayakrishnan and two of his associates from Kerala for allegedly abusing a cab driver with communal invectives in Mangaluru, police said on Saturday.

No arrests have been made so far, they said.

The trio—Jayakrishnan, 50, Santosh Abraham and Vimal--had booked a cab on the night of 9 October from Bejai New Road, police said.

The cab driver, Ahmed Shafiq, 32, faced verbal abuse in Hindi and Malayalam, according to the complaint filed at the Urwa Police Station on Friday, they added.

According to police, the trio booked a cab through a mobile app, giving their pickup address as Bejai New Road in Mangaluru.

When the driver contacted them through the app to confirm the location, they allegedly abused him with communal invectives.

A case has been registered under relevant sections 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 353(2) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

"Digital trails identified them; statements are being recorded," a police source said. —*PTI*

OPERATION BLACK FOREST

Members of Karnataka People's Forum protest against Operation Kagar, the anti-Naxal campaign launched in 2024. They claimed it was a war against Adivasis, displacing the population and militarising and corporatising their land, at Freedom Park, in City, Saturday **PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD**

BLACKMAIL AND DECEIT

B'kote scribe killed by illegal rice traders

BAGALKOT, 11 OCT

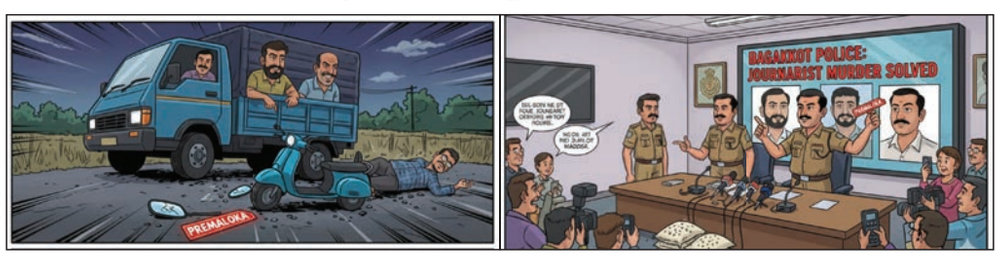


PHOTO: AI

The death of journalist Basavaraj Kanakond in Bagalkot, initially believed to be a road accident, has been confirmed as murder linked to blackmail over an illegal rice supply racket, police said on Saturday. Bagalkot police have apprehended three individuals in connection with the case.

Kanakond died on 8 October after his scooter was hit by an unidentified vehicle near Madarkhandi Cross in Jamakhandi taluk. The incident, first treated as an accident, came under scrutiny after his wife filed a complaint, prompting police to reopen the probe.

Kanakond had reportedly collected proof about an illegal rice network. Rather than publishing the story, he began blackmailing the implicated individuals, police said.

Bagalkot Superintendent of Police Siddharth Goyal commended the swift action of Jamakhandi Circle Inspector Mallappa Maddi and his team.

Inspector Maddi said broken mirror fragments and traces from a mini goods carrier helped track the vehicle involved.

A radium sticker with the word 'Premaloka' confirmed the victim's scooter identity. Police also examined phone records and local sticker shops to piece together evidence.

The accused — Shouqatali Sulaiman Mulla, Nandeshwar Pavari, and Mahesh Pavari — have been arrested for conspiring to kill Kanakond.

Investigators said Shouqatali, allegedly involved in the illegal rice trade, confessed to planning the murder after the journalist blackmailed him.

The accused claimed the journalist continued to demand more money. Enraged, Shouqatali and his aides allegedly rammed Kanakond's scooter with a mini truck, killing him on the spot.

The Food and Civil Supplies Department is probing the illegal rice trade. —*Salar News*

7 impersonate officials, loot City house; arrested

BENGALURU, 11 OCT

PHOTO: FREEPIK

As many as seven individuals have been arrested for allegedly posing as government officials and committing dacoity at a residence in Vinayaka Nagar in the City, according to police reports. The arrests resulted in the recovery of Rs 1.27 crore in cash, various documents, and two vehicles involved in the crime.

The incident occurred on the morning of 19 September when four unidentified men entered a house, intimidating the complainant's wife and mother present at the time. They searched the premises and made off with a suitcase containing cash and important documents.

Following the lodgment of a complaint at Yelahanka Police Station, an investigation led to the arrest of one suspect in Sanjay Nagar on 23 September.

"Upon interrogation, he confessed and disclosed the involvement of his accomplices," stated a senior police officer.

Investigators found Rs 38.8 lakh in cash and documents at an associated godown and office. A resident of Dommalur, previously employed as a driver by the complainant, had tipped off the gang about the hidden cash. All seven suspects have been remanded in police custody for ten days. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Police arrest alleged ISI spy in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, 11 OCT

Rajasthan Police have arrested Mangat Singh, a resident of Alwar, on charges of spying for Pakistan's ISI. Singh was remanded in three-day police custody by a special court in Jaipur on Saturday, following his detention by the state's intelligence unit on Friday. Officials allege he had been in contact with a female Pakistani handler for two years, using social media to pass sensitive information, including photos and videos from Alwar and Ambala Cantonments. Singh, who worked in a local factory and was known as a 'Siddh Purush', allegedly exploited religious gatherings to gain trust and access to defence personnel. Investigators said he received over Rs 10,000 for the intelligence. He has been charged under the Official Secrets Act. —*PTI*

BJP MLAs confident of forming popular govt in Manipur

IMPHAL, 11 OCT

Three BJP MLAs from Manipur, returning from meetings in Delhi, expressed optimism about the formation of a popular government in the state soon. BJP legislator Karam Shyam informed reporters at Imphal Airport that they received assurances from BJP North East in-charge Sambit Patra and national general secretary BL Santosh during their visit. Following the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh amid ongoing ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups, the Central Government imposed President's Rule in Manipur, with the state assembly currently under suspended animation until 2027. MLA Sapam Ranjan, expressed optimism about the leadership's commitment. —*PTI*

Odisha govt decriminalises minor offences

BHUBANESWAR, 11 OCT

The Odisha Cabinet approved major reforms, including the Odisha Jan Vishwas Ordinance, 2025, and the Factories (Odisha Amendment) Ordinance, 2025. The Jan Vishwas Ordinance decriminalises minor regulatory offences, replacing imprisonment with proportionate civil penalties to reduce court backlogs and simplify compliance across sectors such as labour, trade, taxation and municipal administration. The factories amendment allows women to work at all hours, before 6am and after 7pm, with their consent and s afety measures, and extends maximum daily working hours to ten. The Cabinet also approved the Rs 1,600 crore Swachha Odisha sanitation scheme. —*PTI*

Sabarimala row: TDB to take action against 9 officials

PATHANAMTHITTA 11 OCT

TDB President PS Prasanth on Saturday said action would be taken against nine officials whose lapses were highlighted by the Board's Vigilance wing during an investigation into loss of gold at the Sabarimala temple. Speaking to reporters, Prasanth said action had already been initiated against Deputy Devaswom Commissioner (Haripad) B Murari Babu. He added that among those likely to face action are Travancore Devaswom Board secretary Jayashree, executive officer Sudheesh, administrative officer Sreekumar, and former Thiruvabharanam Commissioner KS Baiju. Additionally, Kerala High Court retired Judge Justice KT Sankaran reached Sabarimala to prepare an inventory of all valuables, as directed by the HC to check the missing of gold-clad materials from the Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum). —*PTI*

AIMIM to contest 100 seats in Bihar polls

The party claims that it is willing to build a 'third alternative'; JMM to contest in 12 seats

PATNA/RANCHI, 11 OCT

The AIMIM, which has been spurned by the INDIA bloc in Bihar, on Saturday said it was planning to contest around 100 seats in the upcoming state assembly polls, five times the number it had fought in the last elections.

The party, headed by Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, claimed that it was aiming to build a "third alternative" in Bihar, where politics has, for years, been all about the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-RJD combine.

Talking to PTI-Bhasha, the AIMIM's state president Akhtarul Iman said, "Our plan is to contest 100 seats. Both the NDA and the 'Mahagathbandhan' (the name by which the INDIA bloc is known in Bihar) will be forced to realise our presence."

He also claimed that the 'Mahagathbandhan', which had in 2020 accused the AIMIM of splitting secular votes, can no longer do so.

"It is now common knowledge that I wrote to (RJD president) Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav, expressing willingness for a tie-up. But no response came.

The elections to the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held on 6 and 11 November , and the counting of votes will take place on November 14.

Additionally, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) will take its own decision on the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections if respectable seats are not allocated to the party by INDIA bloc by 14 October, a senior party leader said on Saturday.

The JMM is willing to contest at least 12 assembly seats in the Bihar polls as an ally of the INDIA bloc, he said. —*PTI*

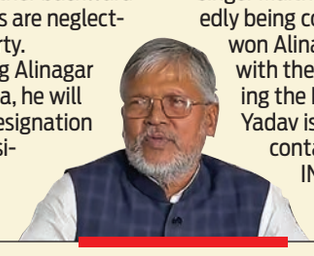
RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav with former JDU MP Santosh Kushwala, former LJP leader Ajay kushwaha and Others as they join RJD during a Press conference at his official residence, in Patna on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

> **I, Pawan Singh, want to inform my Bhojpuri community that I did not join the party (BJP) to contest the Bihar assembly elections...nor do I want to contest the assembly elections.**
>
> -Pawan Singh, Actor

Bihar BJP MLA Mishri Lal Yadav resigns

PATNA, 11 OCT

Bihar BJP MLA Mishri Lal Yadav has resigned, alleging Dalits and other backward communities are neglected in the party. Representing Alinagar in Darbhanga, he will submit his resignation to state president Dilip Jaiswal.



Sources suggest Yadav is upset over speculation he may be denied a ticket, with singer Maithili Thakur reportedly being considered. He won Alinagar in 2020 with the VIP before joining the BJP in 2022. Yadav is reportedly in contact with the INDIA bloc led by the RJD. —*PTI*

Ex-MP who threatened Nitish re-inducted

PATNA, 11 OCT

Former Jehanabad MP Arun Kumar, once a critic of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, has rejoined the JD(U) along with several supporters. He was welcomed by JD(U) leaders, including Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'. Arun Kumar, who lost the Jehanabad seat to Chandeshwar Chandravanshi in 2019, had earlier won it in 1999 and 2014. His return is seen as a strategic move to counter impact of upper-caste leader Rahul Sharma, who recently joined RJD. —*PTI*

Tejashwi will lose Raghopur: Kishor

PATNA, 11 OCT

Prashant Kishor, founder of the Jan Suraaj Party, launched his campaign from Raghopur, the stronghold of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. Kishor, 47, received a warm welcome as he spoke to villagers about their issues. He remarked, "Your local MLA is such a big man... Have you ever approached him?" Kishor vowed to defeat Yadav, likening the potential outcome to "Rahul Gandhi's defeat from Amethi." As for running against Yadav, he said, "The decision has to be taken by the party." —*PTI*

INDIA at impasse over 5 seats, CPI demands 24 seats

PATNA, 11 OCT

The INDIA alliance is facing hurdles over seat-sharing in Bihar's upcoming elections, with the RJD and Congress jostling over five seats: Baisi, Bahadurganj, Raniganj, Kahlgaon, and Saharsa.

The Congress had contested Kahlgaon and Bahadurpur last time, while the RJD fought in Saharsa, Baisi, and Raniganj but failed to win.

Additionally, the RJD held a meeting with its core team, including state President Mangani Lal Mandal, Abdul Bari Siddiqui, Ranvijay Sahu, Fatemi, Jayprakash Yadav, Ramchandra Purve, and Sunil Singh, among other senior leaders. The meeting focused on seat-sharing discussions. Afterward, RJD General Secretary Ranvijay Sahu said that Tejashwi Yadav met with senior leaders to discuss the alliance with announcements expected shortly.

Meanwhile, CPI General Secretary D Raja on Friday said the party has submitted a list of 24 candidates to the INDIA bloc Convener Yadav. —*Agencies*

Parambil, 700 Cong workers booked after Perambra clash

PERAMBRA, 11 OCT

Police have registered a case against 700 individuals, including Congress MP Shafi Parambil, for rioting, assaulting officers, and obstructing public duty after violent clashes erupted during a United Democratic Front (UDF) rally in Perambra, Kozhikode.

The Friday night rally reportedly blocked a public road.

According to police, when they attempted to intervene, UDF workers allegedly pelted stones at them.

A case has been filed under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including 189 (unlawful assembly), 191 (rioting), 285 (obstruction in public way), 121 (causing hurt to deter a public servant), and 132 (assault on public servant).

However, UDF leaders allege that the police initiated violence and brutally assaulted MP Shafi Parambil during a lathi charge.

Parambil was injured and hospitalised.

The clashes broke out after UDF and LDF rallies reportedly converged near the Perambra bus stand.

Several Youth Congress and Yuva Morcha activists were taken into preventive custody in Kozhikode for attempting to protest against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan and AICC in-charge Deepa Das Munshi visit Congress MP Shafi Parambil at Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode, after he was injured in a police lathicharge during a UDF rally **PHOTO: SALAR**

- Several Youth Congress and Yuva Morcha activists were taken into preventive custody in Kozhikode for attempting to protest against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Top Congress leaders, including AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala, Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MK Raghavan, and Mullappally Ramachandran, condemned the police action, calling it "brutal" and "politically motivated".

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan said: "What unfolded in Perambra is nothing short of state-sponsored violence. The assault on an elected MP exposes the fascist mindset of the CPI(M) government Accountability must be fixed, and justice delivered." — *Salar News*

Oppn flays govt after Taliban press meet restricts women

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

The opposition on Saturday termed the absence of female journalists from a press conference of visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi "unacceptable" and an "insult to women", and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence in the face of such discrimination exposes the "emptiness" of his slogans on 'Nari Shakti'.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, said on X: "Mr Modi, when you allow the exclusion of women journalists from a public forum, you are telling every woman in India that you are too weak to stand up for them."

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram termed the episode "outright ridiculous" and accused the MEA and S Jaishankar of going along with the Taliban's discriminatory norms. Former Union Minister P Chidambaram expressed shock and said male journalists should have walked out in solidarity. Congress General Secretary in charge communications, Jairam Ramesh called it a "(Tali)ban on female journalists in India", highlighting its occurrence on the eve of the International Day of the Girl Child. Trinamool Congress MPs Mahua Moitra and Sagarika Ghose also lashed out. Moitra said, "The government has dishonoured every Indian woman by allowing the Taliban minister to exclude women journalists from his presser." Ghose called it "UNACCEPTABLE and HATEFUL", criticising the Modi government's failure to separate engagement from endorsement in foreign policy.

RJD MP Manoj Jha said India had compromised its moral and diplomatic standing by allowing the exclusion. —PTI

Afghanistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi meets Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind President Maulana Arshad Madani at Darul Uloom Deoband, in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

Afghan FM visits Darul Uloom Deoband Islamic seminary

SAHARANPUR, 11 OCT

Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Saturday expressed confidence that the India-Afghanistan ties will grow stronger in future as he visited Darul Uloom Deoband in Saharanpur, one of the most influential Islamic seminaries in South Asia. The but the seminary maintained that there were no restrictions from any side on women journalists covering its events on Saturday. Hundreds of students of the Islamic seminary and a large number of locals who had gathered at the Deoband campus jostled to shake hands with the visiting foreign dignitary, but were stopped by security personnel. Later, a public event organised by Deoband was cancelled due to "overcrowding" and "security reasons". —*PTI*

HAS 8M FOLLOWERS

Akhilesh's Facebook a/c restored; Govt denies role in 'suspension'

LUCKNOW, 11 OCT

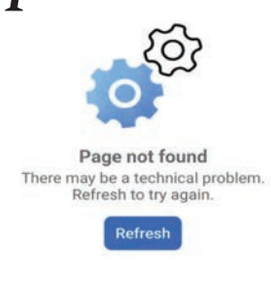
Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav's official Facebook account, which was allegedly suspended earlier, has been restored, party sources said on Saturday.

Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government had "no role" in blocking the account.

"There was an abusive post from his account, and Facebook blocked it as per its policies," he said. Yadav took to his account and shared a quote by Jayaprakash Narayan on Saturday morning, to commemorate the socialist leader's birth anniversary.

"By 'Sampoorn Kraanti' (complete revolution), I mean seeing the most oppressed person in society at the pinnacle of power," the post read. While SP spokesperson Deepak Ranjan confirmed the suspension and subsequent restoration of the social media page, the party's Chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary told PTI, "I am not yet aware if it has been restored, but the main issue is who was behind this suspension? The act was a clear attempt to block democratic opinion and truth."

SP leaders earlier accused the BJP government of imposing an "undeclared emergency to suppress every opposing voice", following the alleged suspension of the account with more than 8 million followers. —*PTI*



Akhilesh Yadav's official Facebook account was allegedly suspended on Friday, at around 6pm **PHOTO: PTI**

NCP MLA'S 'SHOP FROM HINDUS' BARB CAUSES STIR

PUNE, 11 OCT

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar announced on Saturday that the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will issue a show-cause notice to party MLA Sangram Jagtap over his alleged remarks regarding Diwali shopping. Reports claimed Jagtap encouraged people to buy exclusively from Hindu shopkeepers and traders.

Pawar condemned the statement as "completely wrong," emphasising that no MLA should make comments contradicting the party's established policies and objectives. Jagtap represents the Ahmednagar assembly constituency. Pawar also referred to Jagtap's family legacy, stating that while things were stable under his late father, Arunkaka Jagtap, Sangram Jagtap now carries added responsibility and must speak responsibly. —*PTI*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with farmers at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

Modi attacks Cong for 'neglecting' farm sector

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

During a 30-minute address at the launch of two major agricultural schemes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharply criticised past Congress governments for lacking vision and weakening the farm ecosystem.

Urging farmers to diversify beyond rice and wheat, Modi stressed self-reliance and global market engagement, particularly through increased pulses cultivation. The pulses mission aims to expand acreage by 35 lakh hectares and raise output from 252.38 lakh tonnes to 350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31.

He said reforms in agriculture began in 2014, bringing systemic changes from seeds to markets. He said that the agriculture budget has risen sixfold in 11 years. —*PTI*

Villages near TN's Vellore get flood alert

VELLORE, 11 OCT

Residents living along the banks of the River Ponnai have been warned not to use the river for any purpose, including bathing or washing, as water discharge is set to rise due to heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh. Vellore District Collector VR Subbulaxmi said that discharge from the Kalavagunta Dam in Chittoor district was around 540 cusecs at 7.45am. on Saturday and has been increased from 8am. following heavy rainfall in the catchment areas. She urged villagers to stay away from the river and advised parents to ensure children do not go near it for safety reasons. *—PTI*

TN fishermen strike against arrests by Lankan Navy

RAMESWARAM, 11 OCT

Fishermen from Rameswaram district observed a token strike on Saturday protesting the arrest of 47 Indian fishermen and seizure of their boats by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Tamil Nadu government has urged the Centre to secure their release. Chief Minister MK Stalin, in a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on 9 October, said 74 fishermen and 242 boats remain in Sri Lankan custody. The All Mechanised Boat Fishermen's Association said around 400–450 of 650 registered boats stayed ashore and the protest would continue until Tuesday. Families of the detained fishermen also demonstrated near the harbour, demanding the Centre's swift intervention. *—PTI*

Assam cops await S'pore to reply on Zubeen's death

GUWAHATI, 11 OCT

Assam Police are yet to receive a reply from Singaporean authorities regarding their request for information on the death of cultural icon Zubeen Garg, who drowned while swimming in Singapore on 19 September. CID SDGP Munna Prasad Gupta said the request was made under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) via India's Home Ministry, seeking evidence such as CCTV footage. The Attorney-General's Office of Singapore has acknowledged receipt and is reviewing it. Eleven Assam-origin residents who were with Garg have been summoned, though only one has appeared so far. The viscera report has been submitted to Gauhati Medical College for final analysis. Seven people, including festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, have been arrested. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Kumar Sanu moves HC to protect his personality rights

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Renowned singer Kumar Sanu has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of his personality and publicity rights, including his name, voice, singing style, likeness and signature. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora is expected to hear the plea on 13 October. Filed through advocates Shikha Sachdeva and Sana Raees Khan, the petition alleges unauthorised commercial use of Sanu's performances, including AI-generated content cloning his voice and appearance, GIFs and videos that distort his work, causing reputational harm. The singer claims such acts create confusion, false endorsements and moral rights violations. He seeks a court injunction to prevent further unauthorised use across social media platforms including YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. *—PTI*

Cop used excessive force on 'I Love Muhammad' protesters: APCR

BAREILLY, 11 OCT

A fact-finding report by the Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR), a civil rights advocacy group, has accused authorities in Bareilly of using excessive force and violating due process during a peaceful protest held on 26 September 2025.

The report alleges that the Bareilly protest was met with disproportionate state response aimed at silencing dissent and religious expression.

The protest, led by cleric and Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) chief Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, was organised to submit a memorandum supporting the 'I Love Muhammad' campaign, following controversy over a banner in Kanpur.

The report highlights that while similar demonstrations have been peacefully conducted in the past, the Bareilly protest was met with lathicharges, tear gas, and widespread arrests. Although 90–95 pre cent of the protesters dispersed peacefully, clashes broke out in some areas, prompting police to file 10 FIRs and arrest 89 individuals, including Raza, who was named in seven FIRs.

The report alleges that the Bareilly protest was met with disproportionate state response aimed at silencing dissent **PHOTO: PTI**

The APCR alleges that FIRs include serious charges like murder (Section 302) and offences against the state (Section 132), despite no deaths or armed rebellion. Most FIRs were vague, repetitive, and failed to distinguish between protestors, bystanders, and alleged rioters. Families of detainees were reportedly not informed, and minors were also allegedly picked up.

Following the protest, 32 shops in a Waqf-managed market were sealed without notice, despite a stay order from the Waqf Tribunal. Several properties linked to Muslim leaders, including wedding halls and businesses, were demolished or sealed. Internet services were suspended for 48 hours, and security forces were heavily deployed in Muslim areas. Political delegations attempting to visit Bareilly were stopped, and human rights groups criticised the use of bulldozers without due process. APCR claims the crackdown fits a broader pattern: in just 30 days, 45 FIRs were filed in 23 cities, targeting only Muslims. Over 4,500 were booked, with 265 arrested. *—Salar News*

CDSCO blames TN, flags lapses in cough syrup tests

Delhi govt too bans sale & distribution of Coldrif syrup

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

The Coldrif cough syrup, linked to the deaths of several children in Madhya Pradesh, has triggered a nationwide alarm, with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) uncovering serious lapses by Tamil Nadu's drug regulator and the Delhi government banning the product.

Coldrif, manufactured by Sresan Pharma in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, was found to contain 46.28 per cent Diethylene Glycol (DEG), a highly toxic chemical. The permissible limit is just 0.1 per cent. The Delhi government has now prohibited the sale, purchase, and distribution of the syrup, citing major health risks, and urged the public to avoid its use.

Sources in the CDSCO revealed the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (TNFDA) failed to enforce even basic regulatory norms. Licensed in 2011, Sresan Pharma operated for over a decade with poor infrastructure, no Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and without registering its products on the national 'Sugam' database as mandated under Rule 84AB of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

Despite multiple reminders from the CDSCO since October 2023, the TNFDA neither submitted Sresan's data nor ensured the company's compliance. An audit conducted by TNFDA on 1–2 October, after requests from the Madhya Pradesh FDA, was not shared with CDSCO. On 3 October, CDSCO inspectors conducted a risk-based inspection at Sresan Pharma. TNFDA officials were invited to join but did not respond. The CDSCO subsequently recommended cancelling Sresan's manufacturing licence and initiating criminal action. However, it was Madhya Pradesh Police who arrested the manufacturer on 9 October .

CDSCO only became aware of Coldrif's DEG content after TNFDA publicly released the test results on 3 October, highlighting a troubling information blackout. Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava has since held a high-level meeting with states and UTs, urging stronger enforcement of drug quality norms and rational use of paediatric cough syrups.

Sresan Pharma is neither WHO GMP-certified nor compliant with India's updated Schedule M standards notified in December 2023. *—PTI*

Doctors in MP protest against arrest of Dr Soni

BHOPAL, 11 OCT

Thousands of government doctors in Madhya Pradesh protested the arrest of Dr Praveen Soni, linking him to the deaths of 22 children from contaminated Coldrif cough syrup. Doctors wore black ribbons, claiming Soni was made a "scapegoat" while the real culprits, including the syrup's manufacturers, went unpunished. They demanded capital punishment for those responsible and a fair probe. Arrested for alleged negligence, Soni's supporters cited the Supreme Court, arguing the arrest breached legal procedure. The syrup, banned statewide, contained 48.6 per cent poisonous diethylene glycol. The manufacturer, G Ranganathan, was also arrested by the state SIT. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Telangana to move SC after HC stays 42% BC quota

HYDERABAD, 11 OCT

The Telangana High Court has stayed the state government's order granting 42 per cent reservation to Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections, prompting the Congress-led government to consider approaching the Supreme Court.

On 9 October, the High Court ruled that the state's move breached the 50 per cent ceiling on total reservations mandated by the Supreme Court in the Vikas Kishanrao Gawali judgment. The court said the quota increase must adhere to the "triple test" – requiring empirical data collection, determination of backwardness in local bodies, and ensuring total reservations (for SCs, STs, and OBCs) do not exceed 50 per cent.

The court stayed Government Order (GO) No. 9 dated 26 September, along with related GOs 41 and 42. It directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to treat the 42 per cent reserved seats as open category and proceed with elections under existing rules. The SEC subsequently suspended poll activities announced on September 29 until further notice.

A detailed court order was uploaded on Friday night. The division bench, led by Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin, gave the state four weeks to respond and allowed two additional weeks for petitioners' replies.

Congress sources said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has discussed legal options with party leaders and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi. The government is likely to seek relief from the Supreme Court.

The 42 per cent BC quota was a key Congress poll promise. Two related bills are awaiting Presidential assent. Critics argue the GOs violated both the SC's reservation cap and the "triple test" requirement. *—PTI*

Out with friend, WB medico gangraped near college

KOLKATA, 11 OCT

A medical college student from Odisha was allegedly raped by unidentified men in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred outside the private medical college campus in Durgapur on Friday night when the second-year student went out with one of her friends for dinner, her family members said.

The student, from Jaleswar in Odisha, is undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital, a police officer said.

Talking to reporters, the parents of the student said they reached Durgapur this morning after getting a call from their daughter's friends.

The student's mother alleged that her daughter was "gangraped" around 10pm on Friday when she went out of the college campus with one of her friends for dinner.

An initial probe revealed that the student went outside the campus with her friend around 8-8.30 pm on Friday, the police officer said.

"The friend left her alone when three unidentified men arrived there. The men snatched her phone and took her to a jungle outside the campus, where they raped her. She was threatened with dire consequences if she told anyone about the incident," the officer said. The accused also demanded money from the medic to return her mobile phone, he said. Meanwhile, the state health department on Saturday sought a report from the private medical college. *—PTI*

Boy dies of suspected 'rat fever' in Kerala

KOTTAYAM, 11 OCT

A 15-year-old boy, Lenan C Shyam, died on Saturday at a state-run medical college in southern Kerala while receiving treatment for leptospirosis, hospital sources said. A native of SH Mount, Shyam was a Class X student and an active football player. He had exhibited symptoms of leptospirosis, a bacterial infection locally known as "rat fever." Hospital officials stated that the precise cause of death would be confirmed after the post-mortem report. The incident has raised concerns about the prevalence of leptospirosis in the area, particularly among children and young adults exposed to contaminated environments. *—PTI*

Rohtak SP transferred over Haryana IPS officer's suicide

CHANDIGARH, 11 OCT

The Haryana government has transferred Rohtak Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarniya following the alleged suicide of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who reportedly shot himself at his residence in Chandigarh. Surinder Singh Bhoria has been appointed as the new Rohtak SP, with Bijarniya's posting order to follow.

The action comes after Kumar's family intensified their calls for accountability regarding the accusations lodged in his 'final note', where he explicitly named eight senior officers, including Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur and Bijarniya, alleging "caste-based discrimination, targeted mental harassment, and public humiliation."

Kumar's wife, IAS officer Amneet Kumar, has filed a complaint seeking an FIR against Kapur and Bijarniya under the Section 108 of the BNS (abetment to suicide) and relevant sections of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

As tensions mounted, Kumar's family claimed that his body was transferred to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) without their consent. Amneet's brother-in-law, AAP MLA Amit Rattan, condemned the decision, stating, "Injustice is being done with us."

Chandigarh DGP Sagar Preet Hooda appealed to the family for consent to proceed with the post-mortem, assuring that a board comprising forensic experts would oversee the examination, including videography. A special investigation team (SIT) has been established to conduct a thorough probe into the circumstances surrounding Kumar's death, although the family seeks amendments to the FIR regarding the accused. *—PTI*

The passing of Mr Y Puran Kumar is a reminder to us that even today, the prejudiced and biased attitude of those in power deprives even the most senior officials of social justice. I and millions of people of the country stand with you on this path to justice

-Sonia Gandhi, Congress leader, in a letter to the wife of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar

BY 19 NOVEMBER

TN revokes caste names for public places

CHENNAI, 16 OCT

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin addressed gram sabha meetings across the state on Saturday, interacting with people and elected representatives. The meetings, held in 12,480 village panchayats, focused on adopting resolutions to rename streets, roads, public places, and water bodies by removing caste-based names with denigrating meanings. The sabhas also approved key local necessities.

Originally scheduled for 2 October, the meetings were postponed due to the Saraswathi/Ayudha puja holidays. Following Stalin's April announcement, the state government issued guidelines for removing caste-based names from revenue villages and public assets. Block Development Officers, deputy BDOs, executive officers, and municipal commissioners will review existing names in consultation with local communities. Names such as 'Adi Dravidar colony' and 'Harijan colony' will be replaced, while non-discriminatory caste names without objections may remain. Suggested alternatives include 'Kalaignar', 'Kamarajar', 'Mahatma Gandhi', and 'Thanthai Periyar'.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin addressed gram sabha meetings across the state on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

Renaming proposals will be discussed and approved in gram sabhas, with final lists vetted by district collectors or assistant directors. Notifications will be published in the gazette, allowing 21 days for objections. Deadlines are set: 14 October for name estimations, 17 October for public consultations, and 23 October for gazette notifications. Recommendations must reach the state government by 14 November, with resolutions passed by 19 November.

In Chennai, the Greater Chennai Corporation is set to rename 3,400 caste-named streets, mostly in newly added zones, by the 19 November deadline.

Names will be shortened or replaced with leaders' names, flowers, or neutral terms, following public consensus in ward sabhas. New 3D nameboards with reflective lighting will be installed post-renaming. *—PTI*

INDIGO PLANE'S WINDSHIELD CRACKS BEFORE LANDING IN CHENNAI

CHENNAI, 11 OCT

An IndiGo flight carrying 76 passengers from Madurai to Chennai encountered a technical issue on Saturday when the pilot noticed a crack in the aircraft's windshield shortly before landing. The pilot promptly informed the Chennai Air Traffic Control, and necessary arrangements were made to ensure a safe landing.

The aircraft touched down safely and was directed to a separate parking bay (Bay No 95). Passengers disembarked without incident, and airport authorities are currently arranging for the windshield to be replaced. The cause of the crack has not yet been determined. As a result of the incident, the flight's return journey to Madurai was cancelled.

IndiGo, in a statement to PTI, did not specifically mention the windshield crack, instead describing the aircraft as grounded due to a "maintenance requirement." The airline said, "A maintenance requirement was noticed on IndiGo flight 6E 7253, operating from Madurai to Chennai on 10 October, 2025, prior to landing. *—PTI*

Folk singers eye tickets from all parties in Bihar polls

BJP General Secretary Vinod Tawade and Union Minister of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, along with folk singer Maithili Thakur; Another popular Bhojpuri singer, Shilpi Raj, recently met Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) Chief Chirag Paswan in Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

Lending a whiff of glamour to the dust and grime of electoral politics in Bihar, several folk singers, some of them now in the film industry, seem poised to give the upcoming Assembly polls a shot.

While Maithili Thakur, popular folk singer from Bihar, has already expressed her willingness to contest the state polls after meeting senior BJP leaders, Jan Suraaj Party has fielded Bhojpuri singer Ritesh Ranjan Pandey as its candidate from Kargahar seat.

"It would be a different journey for me and I am ready for it," 25-year-old Thakur recently told media persons after meeting senior BJP leaders, including Vinod Tawde and Union minister Nityanand Rai.

In the run-up to the polls, there is a lot of buzz around Bhojpuri superstar Pawan Singh, a native of Ara in Bhojpur district, entering the poll fray.

Speculations are rife that Singh may contest the polls on a BJP ticket from one of the seven Assembly seats of Bhojpur district, preferably from the Ara or Barhara seats.

Singh, who had unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as an Independent from the Karakat seat, recently met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief and Rajya Sabha member Upendra Kushwaha.

The Karakat seat went to Raja Ram Kushwaha of CPI(ML) Liberation in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

In the 2020 Assembly elections, the NDA could win only two out of 22 seats in the Shahabad region, which comprises Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas and Kaimur districts.

Commenting on Jan Suraaj Party's decision to field him from the Kargahar Assembly seat, Pandey told PTI, "I am extremely thankful to our leader Prashant Kishor ji for giving me this opportunity. I am a son of this soil...Since I am contesting from the area which is my birthplace, I am sure people will support me and ensure my victory".

Pandey said he is an artiste, keeps coming to Kargahar regularly and wants to work for the people of the area.

Another popular Bhojpuri singer Shilpi Raj recently met Union Minister and chief of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) Chirag Paswan, in Delhi.

The party shared photographs of her meeting with Paswan on its X handle. Party sources said Raj may be fielded in the upcoming assembly polls.

Despite repeated attempts, she could not be contacted for her comments.

Speaking to PTI, popular Bhojpuri singer Alok Kumar, who recently joined the Jan Suraaj Party, said, "I joined the party because of Prashant Kishor ji. He is the person who has changed the definition of politics...he has a vision for Bihar and the people of the state.

However, let me make it very clear that I joined Jan Suraaj not to contest the upcoming assembly polls. If I am asked to contest polls by the party, I will think over this."

He also urged artistes to join politics as there is "nothing wrong at all".

Bhojpuri actor and singer-turned-BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, who hails from the state's Atarwalia village in Kaimur district and has made Delhi his political 'karmabhoomi' (workplace), told PTI, "Bhojpuri stars are doing well in national politics. I hope that this time, more folk singers will win in the assembly polls in Bihar."

Tiwary, one of the leading actors in the Bhojpuri genre of the Indian film industry, is the BJP's Lok Sabha MP from North East Delhi.

"I must say that folk singers are more connected to the masses, and they know the pulse of the people. Therefore, they must join politics. For our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, politics is the way to serve the people. It is for the social cause. Therefore, inspired by Modi ji's vision and principles, folk singers are joining politics in Bihar," Tiwary said.

Vinay Bihari, who is the BJP MLA from Lauriya assembly seat in West Champaran, is the only Bhojpuri singer in the outgoing Bihar assembly.

The Assembly elections in Bihar will be held in two phases on 6 and 11 November, while the counting of votes will be done on November 14.

MIGRANTS IN MANIPUR HEAD TO BIHAR

Several migrant workers and businessmen from Bihar, currently residing in Manipur, have left the northeastern state to attend the Deepvali and Chhath festivals and planned to return only after casting their votes in the upcoming Assembly elections there.

Others who are still in the northeastern state have expressed the desire to vote in the elections, but cited high travel costs as a deterrent.

"Many of our friends and colleagues have already gone to their respective homes in Bihar for Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath festivals and will return after casting their votes," said Sunil Mahato, a native of Bihar's East Champaran, who runs a clothing store in Imphal.

Mahato, 53, who has been living in Manipur for 32 years, said, "Through social media, we stay updated on what's happening back home. For us, we are voting for the BJP."

Another businessman, Pariyat Prasad from Bihar's Arrah, told PTI, "My wife and children are currently at home. They will also return after the elections."

However, Prasad said many members of the Bihari community living in Thangal and Paona Bazar — two of the largest markets in Imphal — have decided to skip voting due to high travel costs.

"We have to take connecting flights from Imphal to Kolkata or Guwahati and then continue by train. A round trip by air costs over Rs 30,000 per person, which is unaffordable for many daily wage workers," he said.

Prasad added, "Travelling by road via national highways is also time-consuming and inconvenient. Given the economic burden, many of us have decided to skip the elections. Earning a living and saving for the future are more important."

He also said the Bihari community in Manipur is not organised, and decisions are made on individual levels.

While there are no official figures available, the population of Biharis and other non-Manipuri migrants in the state is believed to be more than 1.5 lakh. Migrants from other states are required to obtain Inner Line Permits (ILP) to enter Manipur.

Commenting on the upcoming Bihar elections, Deepak Prasad, a member of a Teli community-based organisation in Imphal's Tellipati locality, claimed, "Unlike Hindus, who are generally not very politically active, Muslims usually go en masse to vote. They will go to Bihar, cast their votes, and return."

Mehoob Alam, a native of Muzaffarpur, who currently stays at a rented place in Mantripukhri area in Imphal and works at a garment store, told PTI: "Some of my Bihari co-workers are planning to go home by train in the last week of October. I am not going as the journey is expensive for us." Prasad added that many members of the Teli community have lived in Manipur for generations and are more integrated into the state's cultural and political life than that of Bihar.

"We feel more at home in Manipur than in Bihar," he said.

—PTI

SALAR

Don on a coin? Julius Caesar tried that — then Rome fell

A proposed one dollar coin featuring US President Donald Trump is causing ructions across the political divide. It's also provoking discussion in the world of ancient Roman numismatics (coin studies).

The proposed coin depicts Trump in profile on one side (the obverse). On the other side (the reverse) the President raises his fist in defiance accompanied by the words "fight, fight, fight".

While only a draft proposal, the coin could be minted in 2026 to mark 250 years since the US declaration of independence. But an old law prohibits the "likeness of any living person" from being "placed upon any of the bonds, securities, notes, fractional or postal currency of the United States."

More than 2,000 years ago, the depiction of living figures on Roman coins caused similar ructions.

It came at a time when the Roman republic was in trouble. The republic would crumble altogether soon after, ushering in the long period of Rome being led by emperor-kings who saw themselves as almost akin to gods.

Perhaps the American republic is at a similar stage.

SULLA'S IMAGE ON A COIN

Rome was said to be founded by the mythical king Romulus, who killed his own twin (Remus). The fledgling state was led by seven kings before it became a republic in about 509 BCE.

By the late second century BCE it was led by Roman general and politician Gaius Marius. Marius and his later rival, Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix, broke many of the republic's long-held conventions. They also fought Rome's first major civil war.

In 88 BCE, while consul, Sulla marched an army on Rome to defend the city from "tyrants" (by which he meant the faction of Marius, who had ousted him). After Sulla won the civil war that followed, he held the dictatorship from 82-79 BCE. Dictatorships were only to be held for six months in times of emergency. Sulla claimed the emergency was ongoing.

As part of this he ordered a list (known as proscriptions) of enemies drawn up. Hundreds or even thousands were killed and had property confiscated.

In the same year a silver coin (called a denarius) was minted in Sulla's name. One side featured Sulla himself riding in a four-horse chariot.

This was the first time a living person was depicted on a Roman coin. Up to this point only gods and mythological figures had that honour.

It was highly unusual.

CAESAR'S CHALLENGE TO OLD REPUBLIC

Sulla was the first but he wouldn't be the last leader of the Roman republic to have his image on a coin.

In 44 BCE Julius Caesar went a step further. Only months before his assassination, coins appeared with Caesar's bust dominating their obverses. Some included the words dict perpetuo meaning "dictator for life".

By this time, Caesar and many before him, including Marius and Sulla, had broken the mould of the old republic.

Early in 44 BCE, Caesar took the dictatorship for life.

From 46-44 BCE he held the consulship, which was only meant to be held for a one-year term at a time. (Sulla held the dictatorship three years running, which partly set the scene for Caesar's later emergence and the final breakdown of the republic.)

For many at the time, it seemed Caesar was moving the republic in the direction of monarchy. In January 44 BCE, when a throng hailed him as "rex" (king) Caesar responded, "I am Caesar and no king". His very name was by now more powerful.

The coins of 44 BCE containing a profile bust of Caesar were an important part of his public programme, and part of his challenge to republican convention.

Sulla paved the way 40 years before.

THE PARALLELS

Some emphasise that Caesar did not directly order his image to be placed on coins. Those wanting to curry favour read the room and Caesar did not object.

A similar scenario appears to be playing out with the coin design bearing Trump's image.

The parallels with Trump are hard to miss. Trump has signed more than 200 executive orders in less than nine months. His predecessor Joe Biden issued 162 in his entire presidency.

Trump's deployment of federal troops to US cities under emergency decrees provokes cries of tyranny. Sulla's march on Rome and the proscriptions that followed drew a similar response.

The possibility of a one dollar coin depicting Donald Trump on both sides echoes the coins of Sulla and Caesar.

They might not technically break the law but they would break convention. In the process they also symbolise a notable shift in the US from democracy to autocracy. When the "no kings!" demonstrations took place in the US earlier this year, they reminded us of a key motivation for the declaration of independence.A coin celebrating its 250-year anniversary may well symbolise its journey to demise.

—PTI

The proposed coin depicts Trump in profile on one side (the obverse). On the other side (the reverse) the President raises his fist in defiance accompanied by the words 'fight, fight, fight' **PHOTO: PTI**

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Israel rejects release of Palestinian leader Barghouti in prisoner swap

- The new truce, which began Friday, includes the release of 20 Israeli hostages held by Hamas, in exchange for about 250 Palestinian prisoners.

Marwan Barghouti, 66, is serving multiple life sentences after being convicted in 2004 for his alleged involvement in attacks that killed five Israelis **PHOTO: PTI**

Israel has excluded Marwan Barghouti, the most popular and potentially unifying Palestinian leader, from the list of prisoners it intends to release in the latest Gaza ceasefire deal with Hamas. Despite Hamas' longstanding demand for his freedom, Israel has consistently refused, citing Barghouti's role in attacks during the Second Intifada.

Barghouti, 66, is serving multiple life sentences after being convicted in 2004 for his alleged involvement in attacks that killed five Israelis. While Israel labels him a terrorist, many Palestinians see him as a national hero, a resistance figure who advocates for a two-state solution while defending the right to resist occupation. Often compared to Nelson Mandela, Barghouti remains a unifying figure across Palestinian political factions.

The new truce, which began Friday, includes the release of around 20 Israeli hostages held by Hamas, in exchange for about 250 Palestinian prisoners. In addition, approximately 1,700 detainees from Gaza, many held without charge, are to be released. However, Barghouti's name is notably absent from the official list of prisoners published by the Israeli government, though officials have not confirmed if the list is final.

Senior Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzouk told Al Jazeera that Hamas continues to insist on Barghouti's release, along with other high-profile figures, and discussions with mediators are ongoing.

SYMBOL OF UNITY AND RESISTANCE

Born in the West Bank village of Kobar in 1959, Barghouti rose to prominence during the First Intifada in the late 1980s as a student activist at Birzeit University. He was deported to Jordan but returned in the 1990s under the Oslo Accords, playing a major role in Fatah and later becoming head of the movement in the West Bank.

Following the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Israel accused Barghouti of leading the Fatah-linked Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which carried out multiple attacks. He never confirmed or denied direct links to the group. In a 2002 Washington Post editorial, Barghouti wrote: "I am not a terrorist, but neither am I a pacifist," defending Palestinians' right to resist occupation.

His 2004 trial in Israel was controversial; Barghouti refused to recognise the court's authority and was convicted of murder while being acquitted in some charges. Since then, he has remained behind bars but continues to be a powerful political force. In 2021, he registered his own list for Palestinian parliamentary elections, which were later cancelled, and in 2017, led a 40-day hunger strike involving over 1,500 prisoners demanding improved prison conditions. Analysts argue Barghouti's wide appeal could help bridge deep divisions between Hamas and Fatah and revitalise the Palestinian political landscape, which has suffered under the aging and widely unpopular leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas.

"Barghouti is seen as a credible national leader, someone who can lead the Palestinians in a way Abbas has consistently failed to," said Mouin Rabbani, non-resident fellow at Democracy for the Arab World Now. "Israel is keen to avoid that."

FEAR OF A REPEAT OF HISTORY

Israeli officials are reportedly concerned that releasing Barghouti could repeat the precedent set by the 2011 release of Yahya Sinwar, a senior Hamas figure freed in a prisoner exchange who later orchestrated the 7 October, 2023, attack that sparked the current war. Sinwar was killed by Israeli forces in 2024, but his release is seen by many in Israel as a major intelligence failure. "Barghouti is not tied to the corruption that has plagued Abbas' Palestinian Authority," said Eyal Zisser, Vice Rector of Tel Aviv University and an expert on Arab-Israeli relations. "His popularity could strengthen Palestinian institutions, a terrifying thought for Israel's Right-wing government, which opposes steps towards Palestinian statehood."

Israel's refusal to release Barghouti may also reflect domestic political calculations. Hardline elements within Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition, including far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, strongly oppose freeing prisoners with any record of attacks against Israelis. In August, Ben-Gvir posted a video of himself berating Barghouti in prison, vowing to "wipe out" any threat to Israel.

THE SWAP RESONATES DEEPLY ON BOTH SIDES

The current exchange involves the release of around 250 Palestinian prisoners, mostly from Hamas and Fatah, many of whom were jailed during the 2000s following the Second Intifada. Most were convicted for involvement in shootings or bombings. Over half are expected to be deported to Gaza or into exile, limiting their ability to re-enter political life in the West Bank.

The oldest prisoner being released is 64-year-old Samir Abu Naama, jailed in 1986 for planting explosives. The youngest is Mohammed Abu Qatish, arrested at 16 for an attempted stabbing in 2022. Among the most controversial is Iyad Abu al-Rub, an Islamic Jihad commander involved in deadly bombings between 2003–2005.

For Palestinians, the prisoners are often seen as political detainees or freedom fighters resisting occupation. For Israelis, many are viewed as terrorists responsible for the deaths of civilians and soldiers.

—PTI

PHOTO: X

60 killed in drone attack at Sudanese city, say activists

BEIRUT, 11 OCT

At least 60 people, including 14 children and 15 women, were killed in an drone attack by Sudanese paramilitaries that hit a shelter in a besieged Darfur city, a doctors' group said Saturday. The Sudan Doctors' Network said the shelling attack on the city of el-Fasher also wounded another 21 people, including five children and seven women. The attack by the Rapid Support Forces hit the al-Arqam Home, which sheltered displaced families in el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, the group said. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk reported that fighting in el-Fasher had claimed at least 53 civilian lives and injured over 60 between 5 and 8 October, condemning the violence. *—PTI*

6 terrorists, 7 policemen killed in Pak attack

PESHAWAR, 11 OCT

A terror attack on the Ratta Kulachi Police Training School in Dera Ismail Khan district resulted in the deaths of seven policemen and six terrorists during a five-hour gun battle. The incident began late on Friday with a suicide attack involving an explosives-laden truck, followed by armed militants storming the compound. Officials confirmed that while three terrorists were neutralised immediately, the remaining attackers were engaged in fierce combat with police forces, leading to three more deaths among them. DPO Sahibzada Sajjad Ahmed and RPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar supervised the operation, which involved elite commando units. Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed declared the area secure, commending the operation's success and announcing rewards for the responders. *—PTI*

Half of Haiti faces severe food shortage: UN body

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 11 OCT

At least half of Haiti's population, or 5.7 million people face severe food shortages amid armed gangs and an economic collapse continues to push to the country down a spiral, the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification said in a report on Friday. Nearly 2 million people are at the emergency level, experiencing acute food shortages and high malnutrition, the report said. Another 3.8 million face crisis-level food insecurity. The situation is expected to deteriorate further, with nearly 6 million people projected to face acute hunger by mid-2026, while 2 million will be at the emergency level. *—Salar News*

Two jurors were bullied to convict Weinstein: Lawyers

NEW YORK, 11 OCT

Two jurors from Harvey Weinstein's June trial have claimed they were bullied into their conviction and now regret their decisions, according to new court documents. Weinstein's legal team is pushing to overturn his conviction for first-degree criminal sex act, alleging "threats, intimidation, and extraneous bias" influenced the verdict. In sworn affidavits, one juror recounted being yelled at, stating, "we have to get rid of you." Another said, "if I could have voted by secret ballot, I would have returned a not guilty verdict on all three charges." The jurors expressed concerns for their safety, with one stating, "the deliberations were unprofessional." Judge Curtis Farber will review the prosecution's investigation, with a ruling expected on 22 December. *—PTI*

China a moral disgrace, fumes Trump

Markets tumble as Don ignites trade war over minerals

WASHINGTON, 11 OCT

US President Donald Trump called China's policy on rare earth minerals a "moral disgrace" and said that it was "unheard of in international media."

Trump has imposed an "additional" 100 per cent tariff on China after Beijing restricted access to rare earth minerals on Thursday, requiring foreign companies to get special approval for shipping the metallic elements abroad

"This affects ALL Countries, without exception, and was obviously a plan devised by them years ago," Trump wrote on his Truth Social. "It is impossible to believe that China would have taken such an action, but they have, and the rest is History."

US and China had engaged in a massive tit-for-tat trade war earlier this year, sparking fears of a global recession. At its peak, US threatened 145 per cent tariffs against China, which retaliated with 125 per cent against the US.

However, the two since negotiated and softened their stances, with tariffs dropping substantially to 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, Trump seemingly secured a TikTok deal and had seemed enthusiastic to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year in South Korea, a plan which now appears to have fallen flat.

Global markets tumbled as the trade war now appears reinvigorated.

The S&P 500 tumbled 2.7 per cent on worries about the rising tensions between the world's largest economies. It was the market's worst day since April when the President last bandied about import taxes this high. Still, the stock market closed before the President spelt out the terms of his threat.

However, Trump is known to back down from his threats, something experts say is still possible.

Earlier this year, some investors began engaging in what the Financial Times called the "TACO" trade, which stands for "Trump Always Chickens Out."

—Salar News with agencies

US President Donald Trump; China President Xi Jinping **PHOTO: X**

> **The person who got the Nobel Prize called me and said, 'I am accepting this in honour of you because you really deserved it'... I didn't say, 'Give it to me', though. I think she might have.**
>
> —Donald Trump, US President

Trump is in 'exceptional health,' says doc after checkup

Trump is in "exceptional health," his physician said Friday after he underwent a checkup at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Trump also got his yearly flu shot, as well as a Covid-19 booster vaccine during the three-hour visit.

Pentagon to build a training facility for Qatari pilots in Idaho

The US military will build a dedicated facility in Idaho to train pilots from Qatar, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said. During a visit by Qatar's Defence Minister, Hegseth said the facility would "host a contingent of Qatari F-15s and pilots."

Nat'l guard begins patrolling Memphis

National Guard troops patrolled in Tennessee's second-largest city Memphis on Friday while soldiers in Illinois were engaged only in planning and training after a judge blocked their deployment to the Chicago area.

UNSC concerned about US' strikes on Venezuela

UN Security Council members on Friday voiced concern about US strikes on "drug ships" off the coast of Venezuela, but took no firm stance. The UN asked the US to treat drug criminals in accordance to international law.

WHITE HOUSE BEGINS LAYOFFS AS SHUTDOWN CONTINUES...

WASHINGTON, 11 OCT

The White House budget office said Friday that mass firings of federal workers have started, an attempt by President Donald Trump's administration to exert more pressure on Democratic lawmakers as the government shutdown dragged into a 10th day.

Reports suggest that 4,000 workers would be laid off from seven agencies.

Employees at the departments of Education, Treasury, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, were set to receive the notices, according to spokespeople for the agencies and union representatives for federal workers.

In comments to reporters in the Oval Office on Friday night, Trump said many people would be losing their jobs, and that the firings would be focused on Democrat-oriented areas.

"It'll be a lot, and we'll announce the numbers over the next couple of days," he said. "These are people that the Democrats wanted, that, in many cases, were not appropriate... Many of them will be fired."

Democrats, however, hit back.

"Let's be blunt: nobody's forcing Trump and (Budget director Russ) Vought to do this," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said. "(But) they want to. They're callously choosing to hurt people — the workers who protect our country, inspect our food, respond when disasters strike. This is deliberate chaos." *—PTI*

MUSICAL CHAIRS

Macron reappoints Lecornu as French PM

PARIS, 11 OCT

French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday re-appointed Sebastien Lecornu as Prime Minister, just days after his resignation, asking him to try again to form a government and produce a budget in a bid to end the country's political deadlock.

Lecornu's re-appointment followed days of intense negotiations and came less than a week after he resigned amid infighting in his freshly named government. France is struggling with mounting economic challenges and ballooning debt.

The appointment is widely seen as the President's last chance to reinvigorate his second term, which runs until 2027.

Macron's office released a one-sentence statement announcing the appointment.

Lecornu said in a statement on social networks that he accepted the new job offer out of "duty." All those who join his new government will have to renounce ambitions to run for President in 2027.

Lecornu said, adding that the new Cabinet will "incarnate renewal and a diversity of skills."

Lecornu had abruptly resigned Monday, only hours after unveiling a new Cabinet that drew opposition from a key coalition partner. *—PTI*

Israel kills 1 in Lebanon after Gaza deal

BEIRUT, 11 OCT

Israel carried out intense airstrikes on southern Lebanon early Saturday, killing one person, wounding seven and briefly cutting a highway that links Beirut with parts of south Lebanon, the Health Ministry said, a day after withdrawing from Gaza.

The Health Ministry said that the one slain was a Syrian citizen, while the wounded were a Syrian national and six Lebanese, including two women.

The Israeli military said it struck a place where machinery was stored to be used to rebuild infrastructure for the militant Hezbollah group. Israel had declared a ceasefire with Lebanon, but has repeatedly violated it.

PALESTINIANS RETURN TO RUBBLE

Tens of thousands of Palestinians headed back to the heavily destroyed northern Gaza Strip on Friday as a US-brokered ceasefire came into effect. A steady stream of people, the vast majority on foot, crammed onto a coastal road in the central Gaza Strip, heading north to see what might remain of their homes.

Questions remain over who will govern Gaza as Israeli troops gradually pull back and whether Hamas will disarm, as called for in US President Donald Trump's ceasefire plan. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who unilaterally ended a ceasefire in March, hinted that Israel might renew its offensive if Hamas does not give up its weapons.

Meanwhile, the UN was given the green light by Israel to begin delivering scaled-up aid into Gaza starting Sunday, a UN official said.

—Salar News with Agencies

The Musaylih road in south Lebanon after it was bombed by Israeli warplanes overnight on Friday **PHOTO: XINHUA**

- Israel said it was targeting Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure, but Lebanon's Health Ministry said the deceased and many of the injured were Syrian nationals.

Peru gets its 7th President in a decade

LIMA, 11 OCT

Peruvians woke up to their seventh President in less than a decade on 11 October, as 38-year-old José Jerí assumed leadership after Congress ousted widely unpopular president Dina Boluarte. Following an overnight impeachment, Jerí, a lawyer with limited political experience who became Congress President in July, pledged to seek "reconciliation," combat rising crime, and ensure "neutrality" in the upcoming elections in April.

Lawmakers initiated the impeachment debate late on Thursday, citing Boluarte's failure to address crime, and swiftly voted her out just past midnight. This marked the ninth attempt to remove her.

Boluarte, who took office in December 2022 following the impeachment of her predecessor, Pedro Castillo, faced multiple allegations, prompting the Attorney General's Office to seek a travel ban during ongoing investigations into corruption and money laundering.

Jerí, who ascended in surprising circumstances, will preside until the elections, scheduled for April 2026, following a tumultuous period characterised by protests and escalating violence in Peru. *—PTI*

Tennessee plant blast leaves 19 missing

MCEWEN, 11 OCT

A powerful explosion at an explosives plant in rural Tennessee has left 19 people missing and feared dead, officials confirmed on Friday. The blast obliterated the Accurate Energetic Systems facility in McEwen, which manufactures and researches munitions for the US military.

Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis described the scene as "indescribable", saying the plant was "gone" and calling it one of the worst tragedies he had witnessed. The explosion occurred around 7.45am, scattering debris over a half-mile area and shaking homes up to 15 miles away.

Families of the missing gathered nearby as rescue efforts continued. *—PTI*

Kyiv power restored after Russia strikes

KYIV, 11 OCT

Power has been restored to more than 8,00,000 residents in Kyiv following a massive wave of Russian drone and missile strikes on Ukraine's energy grid on Friday.

Ukraine's largest private energy firm, DTEK, said on Saturday that the main restoration work in the capital was complete, though some localised outages persisted. The co-ordinated assault, described by officials as one of the largest concentrated strikes since the war began, wounded at least 20 people, damaged homes, and caused widespread blackouts.

Russia's Defence Ministry claimed the strikes targeted facilities supplying Ukraine's military, using Kinzhal hypersonic missiles and drones. The energy grid has long been a central target as Moscow seeks to weaken Ukraine ahead of winter, when energy demand peaks.

The latest offensive followed an agreement between the leaders of Britain, France, and Germany to use profits from frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's forces. *—PTI*

Power was restored to at least 8,00,000 residents in Kyiv on Saturday as Russian attacks caused a massive blackout **PHOTO: X**

STREETS TURN TO RIVERS

28 killed in Mexican floods

MEXICO CITY, 11 OCT

Flooding caused by heavy rains in central and southeastern Mexico has set off landslides, damaged homes and highways, and left at least 28 people dead, authorities said Friday.

Videos on social media from different parts of the affected areas showed streets turned into rivers carrying away vehicles and houses almost completely covered in water.

Mexico deployed 8,700 military personnel to assist the population.

One of the hardest hit areas was the central state of Hidalgo, where 16 deaths have been reported, according to state Interior Secretary Guillermo Olivares Reyna.

At least 1,000 homes, 59 hospitals and clinics, and 308 schools have suffered damage in the state because of landslides and rivers topping their banks. Some 17 of the states 84 municipalities were without electricity, he said.

In neighbouring Puebla state, nine people died and 13 were missing, according to Governor Alejandro Armenta. He estimated some 80,000 people were affected. *—PTI*

Videos shared on social media on Friday showed streets in several affected areas submerged and flowing like rivers **PHOTO: X**

2 DIE, 6 INJURED IN NEPAL MUDSLIDE

KATHMANDU, 11 OCT

A mudslide in Nepal's Madhesh province has resulted in the deaths of two individuals and injuries to six others. A 70-year-old woman and a 15-year-old boy were tragically buried alive at around 8am. Six other individuals sustained injuries, police said. —PTI

Judge bins Drake's lawsuit against 'Not Like Us'

NEW YORK, 11 OCT

A defamation lawsuit that Drake brought against Universal Music Group was tossed out by a federal judge who said the lyrics in Kendrick Lamar's dis track 'Not Like Us' were opinion.

The feud between two of hip-hop's biggest stars erupted in the spring of 2024, with the pair trading a series of vitriolic tracks that culminated in Lamar landing the "metaphorical killing blow" with his megahit that May, Judge Jeannette A Vargas said in her written opinion on Thursday.

While the track's lyrics explicitly branded Drake as a paedophile, Vargas said, a reasonable listener could not conclude that 'Not Like Us' was conveying objective facts about the Canadian superstar.

"Although the accusation that Plaintiff is a paedophile is certainly a serious one, the broader context of a heated rap battle, with incendiary language and offensive accusations hurled by both participants, would not incline the reasonable listener to believe that 'Not Like Us' imparts verifiable facts," Vargas wrote.

Drake's team said they would challenge it. *—PTI*

High tariffs on China may aid India's exports

Toy exporters said high duties on China will help attract buyers for Indian products

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

The escalating trade war between the US and China is expected to benefit Indian exporters in increasing their shipments to the American market, according to experts.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations President SC Ralhan said that imposition of higher tariffs by the US on China will shift demand towards India, which exported goods worth USD 86 billion to the US in 2024-25. "We may gain from this escalation," Ralhan said.

The US has announced an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods starting 1 November, 2025, raising the overall tariff rate on Chinese imports to about 130 per cent. The move came in response to Beijing's 9 October, 2025 decision to impose sweeping new controls on rare earth exports, which are indispensable for US defense, electric vehicles, and clean-energy industries. At present, US tariffs on Indian goods are 50 per cent, more than that of China's 30 per cent.

The tariffs would affect exports from China to the US as they would push prices of their goods in the American market, making them less competitive, another exporter said. Toy exporter Manu Gupta too said that high duties on Chinese goods will help attract buyers from both these nations.

"It will help us. High duty will create a parity and will give us a level playing field," Gupta said, adding American buyers like retail giant Target have reached out to them for new products.

Think tank GTRI said that the escalating trade tensions between the US and China will push prices of EVs, wind turbines, and semiconductor parts in the global markets. America depends heavily on China for electronics, textiles, footwear, white goods, and solar panels, it said. —*PTI*

130% TARIFFS ON CHINA: CRYPTO MARKET LOSES $7B IN 1 HOUR

WASHINGTON, 11 OCT

Cryptocurrency markets plummeted on Friday as renewed trade tensions between the US and China, sparked by President Trump's announcement of a 130 per cent tariff on Chinese imports, sent shockwaves through global investors. The crypto sector saw over $10 billion wiped off in 24 hours, marking the largest liquidation wave since April, according to Coinglass data.

Bitcoin fell 8.4 per cent to $104,782, while Ethereum dropped 5.8 per cent to $3,637 after peaking at a record high of over $126,250 earlier in the week. The S&P 500 Index also declined over 2 per cent.

"A renewed trade war between China and the US erupted on Friday, causing uncertainty in markets and a rout in risk assets," said Ravi Doshi, co-head of markets at FalconX. In just one hour, more than $7 billion in positions vanished.

The sell-off extended to smaller tokens, with Ether losing over 17 per cent, and XRP and Dogecoin each down by more than 30 per cent. —*PTI*

Indian realty PE inflow sees 15% dip: Anarock

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Private equity (PE) investments in India's real estate sector fell 15 per cent year-on-year to USD 819 million in the July–September quarter, according to property consultant Anarock. For the first half of the 2025–26 fiscal year, total inflows reached USD 2.2 billion, also down 15 per cent from the same period last year, with foreign investors contributing 73 per cent of the total. Anarock Capital CEO Shobhit Agarwal attributed the slowdown to global economic uncertainty and stronger cash flows for developers, supported by robust residential sales. Agarwal added that India remains a key growth market, and private equity inflows are expected to recover once macroeconomic conditions stabilise and investor confidence improves. —*PTI*

Waaree Q2 profit more than doubles to Rs 116 cr

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Waaree Renewable Technologies' consolidated net profit more than doubled to Rs 116.34 crore in the September quarter, up from Rs 53.51 crore in the same period last year. The company also posted its highest-ever quarterly revenue, which rose 47.73 per cent to Rs 774.78 crore, boosted by strong execution and expansion into new energy verticals such as Battery Energy Storage Systems and data centres. Waaree Renewable holds an unexecuted order book of 3.48 GWp, expected to be completed over the next 12–15 months, with a robust bidding pipeline of over 27 GWp. The board approved capital expenditure for new 65.5 MWp IPP solar power plants in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, signalling continued growth and commitment to India's renewable energy transition. —*PTI*

Modi meets Qualcomm CEO; discusses AI & innovation

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

President and CEO of Qualcomm Cristiano R Amon met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US-based chip maker Qualcomm President and CEO Cristiano R Amin and discussed India's strides in Artificial Intelligence and innovation.

"It was a wonderful meeting with Mr Cristiano R Amon and discussing India's strides in AI, innovation and skilling," Modi said in a post on X. "Great to see Qualcomm's commitment towards India's semiconductor and AI missions. India offers unmatched talent and scale to build technologies that will shape our collective future," he said. Amon met the prime minister at his official residence on Friday.

"Thank you PM @narendramodi for the great conversation on fostering a broader partnership between @Qualcomm and India in support of the IndiaAI and India Semiconductor Missions, as well as the transition to 6G," Amon said in a post on X on Friday.

"We are encouraged by the opportunities to develop an Indian ecosystem across AI smartphones, PCs, smart glasses, auto, industrial and more," the Qualcomm top executive said. —*PTI*

RS 68 CRORE SCAM

ED arrests Reliance Power CFO in bank guarantee case

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ashok Pal, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Anil Ambani's Reliance Power, in connection with a money laundering investigation involving a purported fake bank guarantee worth Rs 68 crore. Sources from the agency confirmed that Pal was taken into custody on Friday evening under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following questioning.

Pal was presented before a magistrate on Saturday, and has been remanded to ED custody for two days, with a subsequent appearance scheduled in a special PMLA court on 13 October.

The case revolves around a bank guarantee of Rs 68.2 crore submitted to the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) by Reliance NU BESS Limited, a subsidiary of Reliance Power, which was deemed "fake." The ED identified Biswal Tradelink, an Odisha-based firm, as allegedly orchestrating a racket for supplying "fake" bank guarantees.

Investigations revealed Pal played a significant role in the "diversion" of funds, having been empowered by the company board to approve all documentation for SECI's BESS tender. The submission of the guarantee from FirstRand Bank, which lacks a branch in the Philippines, raised red flags.

The money laundering case traces back to a November 2024 FIR filed by the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police, alleging that Biswal Tradelink was issuing "fake" bank guarantees for an 8 per cent commission. —*PTI*

ED questions Muthoot MD over investor fraud case

KOCHI, 10 OCT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday questioned George Alexander Muthoot, managing director of Kerala-based Muthoot Group, in a money-laundering probe linked to investor fraud, officials said.

The Kochi zonal unit of the ED filed the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), following several FIRs lodged by the Kerala Police.

The complaints allege that Muthoot Finance branch managers promised investors returns of 8–12 per cent on certain fixed deposits and non-convertible debentures (NCDs), but diverted the funds to Srei Equipment Finance Limited, falsely presented as a sister concern of the group. This led to non-repayment on maturity, leaving investors cheated. Muthoot recorded his statement at the ED office in Kochi. —*PTI*

Foreign investors return with ₹1.7K cr inflows: NSDL

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Foreign investors made a strong return to Indian markets this week, turning net buyers after weeks of persistent selling, with a positive inflow of Rs 1,751 crore between 6 and 10 October, according to National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) data.

The shift was pronounced, as Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) were heavy sellers during the first two sessions of the week, offloading significant capital, before turning aggressive buyers over the next three sessions. The combined buying has substantially reduced the net outflow for October to Rs 2,091 crore, a major improvement from September's hefty Rs 23,885 crore outflow.

Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President of Research at Religare Broking, said the turnaround reflects improving foreign investor sentiment, supported by domestic market resilience and relative stability in global financial conditions. Analysts added that the sustainability of the inflows will depend on continued strong corporate earnings, robust economic growth, and a stable global risk appetite.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) continued to support the market throughout the selling phase, helping prevent sharper declines and maintaining stability. The week's positive inflows signal renewed confidence from external investors in Indian equities, suggesting that foreign funds could play a stabilising role if global and domestic conditions remain favourable.

This renewed interest highlights India's attractiveness as a growth market, despite recent volatility and global uncertainties. —*PTI*

'IPO oversubscription reflects India's growth'

MUMBAI, 11 OCT

Investor confidence in India's economic potential remains robust, evident from the recent surge in high-value IPOs such as Tata Capital and LG Electronics, despite the Nifty and Sensex recording no returns over the past 13 months.

In 2025, India's primary market has seen 74 companies raise over Rs 85,241 crore, with Tata Capital and LG Electronics contributing majorly, raising Rs 15,512 crore and Rs 11,607 crore respectively. Aashish P Sommaiyaa, Executive Director & CEO of WhiteOak Capital, commented, "There is money on the sidelines to invest," highlighting the appeal of these IPOs against a backdrop of stable secondary markets.

The overwhelming oversubscription rates of 54.02 times for LG Electronics and 1.95 times for Tata Capital further reflect strong investor conviction. —*ANI*

Musk claims OpenAI 'is built on a lie'

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 OCT

Elon Musk has once again criticised OpenAI, claiming the organisation has strayed from its founding purpose. In posts on X, he said OpenAI "is built on a lie" and accused it of "stealing a charity and using it for their own financial gain," reigniting his long-standing feud with the Sam Altman-led company.

Musk's remarks come shortly after OpenAI marked the first anniversary of its viral text-to-video app, Sora. He has repeatedly accused the firm of abandoning its non-profit mission to ensure AI benefits humanity, describing it as "a closed-source, profit-driven Microsoft subsidiary."

OpenAI was founded in 2015 as a non-profit research lab by Musk, Altman, Greg Brockman and others, with Musk contributing early funding and vision. He left the board in 2018 after disagreements over the company's direction. OpenAI later adopted a capped-profit model and partnered with Microsoft, prompting criticism that it had moved away from its altruistic beginnings.

- Elon Musk has once again criticised OpenAI, claiming the organisation has strayed from its founding purpose. In posts on X, he said OpenAI "is built on a lie" and accused it of "stealing a charity and using it for their own financial gain."

Earlier this year, Musk sued OpenAI and Altman for "breach of contract," alleging the shift to profit, though the case was later withdrawn. OpenAI maintains its structure still aligns with its mission to develop safe and beneficial AI. —*Agencies*

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTORS

Here are some things to know before investing in equity funds...

PUNE/MAHARASHTRA/INDIA, 11 OCT

Equity funds may offer investors an opportunity to participate in the potential growth of listed companies through a diversified portfolio.

They are suitable for individuals who are willing to stay invested for the long term and are comfortable with short-term market fluctuations.

Before you decide to invest in equity funds, it is important to understand how they work, the types available, and what factors you may consider before making an investment decision.

Equity mutual funds primarily invest in shares of different companies across market segments and sectors.

Their aim is to generate potential long-term capital appreciation by participating in the performance of businesses.

The returns from such investments depend on the price movements of the underlying stocks, which may fluctuate based on market conditions.

Investors who choose to invest in equity funds may find them suitable if they are looking to grow wealth over an extended period.

However, since equity markets are influenced by economic and sectoral factors, it is important to remain patient during periods of volatility.

There are several categories of equity funds.

LARGE CAP FUNDS

These funds primarily invest in companies with large market capitalisation that are generally considered to be more established.

Large cap fund schemes may offer a potentially stable returns over time compared to smaller market segments.

MID CAP AND SMALL CAP FUNDS

These invest in relatively smaller companies that may provide potential growth but may also be more volatile.

FLEXI CAP AND MULTI CAP FUNDS

These schemes invest across market capitalisations, allowing fund managers to allocate investments dynamically based on market outlook.

SECTORAL OR THEMATIC FUNDS

These focus on specific industries or investment themes and may be suitable for investors with higher risk tolerance.

BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION, CONSIDER:

1.Investment horizon: Equity funds may require a long-term horizon, typically five years or more, to ride out market fluctuations.

2.Risk appetite: Since equity investments are market-linked, their values may go up or down. Assessing your risk tolerance is essential.

3.Financial goals: Aligning your investment with specific goals such as buying a house, funding education, or planning retirement helps in selecting a suitable fund.

4.Diversification: Investing across different categories and sectors may reduce the impact of volatility on your overall portfolio.

5.Fund management and consistency: Reviewing the fund's investment approach and track record over various market cycles may provide insights into its consistency.

HOW TO START INVESTING

Investing in equity mutual funds has become simpler with online investment platforms and financial intermediaries. You may start with a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) or a lumpsum investment. SIPs allow you to invest a fixed amount regularly, which may help in averaging out the cost of investment over time.

Reviewing the fund's objective, riskometer, and scheme information document is also recommended to understand where and how the fund will invest your money.

WHEN LARGE CAP MAY SUIT YOUR PORTFOLIO

If you are new to equity investing or prefer a relatively stable experience, you may consider exploring a large cap fund. These funds typically invest in companies that are market leaders with established track records. While they may not deliver sharp short-term gains, they may offer more consistency during volatile phases compared to mid or small cap categories.

CONCLUSION

Equity mutual funds offer investors an opportunity to participate in the potential long-term growth of the economy. By understanding their structure, risks, and types, you may be able to make informed decisions that align with your goals and investment horizon.

Whether you prefer starting with a large cap fund or a diversified portfolio, remember that investing in equity funds requires patience, discipline, and regular review.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully. —*PTI*

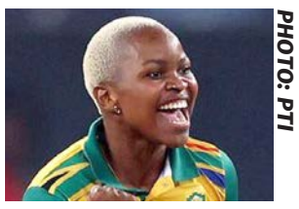


PHOTO: PTI

Mlaba reprimanded for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

VISAKHAPTANAM, 11 OCT

South Africa spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba was on Saturday reprimanded and handed one demerit point by the ICC for breaching its Level 1 Code of Conduct during the women's World Cup match against India here. South Africa defeated India by three wickets to hand Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. their first loss of the tournament here on Thursday. "Mlaba was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match'," an ICC media release stated. *—PTI*

Arctic Open 2025: Anmol Kharb loses to Yamaguchi

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Rising Indian shuttler Anmol Kharb's impressive run at the Arctic Open Super 500 badminton tournament ended with a straight-game loss to three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi on Saturday.The 18-year-old from Faridabad, part of India's gold-winning team at the 2024 Asia Team Championships, stayed competitive in the early stages of both games, but Yamaguchi pulled away in the second half to register a comfortable 21-10, 21-13 win in 29 minutes.Yamaguchi will now take on the winner of the match between two Thai shuttlers—fourth seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan and second seed Ratchanok Intanon.It was a creditable semifinal finish for Kharb, who outwitted notable top-30 players such as Wen Chi Hsu (No. 32) and sixth seed Lin Hsiang Ti (World No. 21).*—PTI*

PHOTO: X/@MBAPPE

Ankle injury: Mbappe withdraws from France squad

PARIS, 11 OCT

France captain Kylian Mbappe has withdrawn from Monday's World Cup qualifier against Iceland due to a right ankle injury sustained during his side's 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan, the French Football Federation (FFF) said on Saturday. The 26-year-old forward, in scintillating form this season with 14 goals in 10 appearances for Real Madrid, sustained the injury in the 83rd minute of the Azerbaijan game after scoring one goal and assisting in another. The national coach (Didier Deschamps) has confirmed his withdrawal. Kylian Mbappe has been made available to his club and will not be replaced.*—PTI*

Indonesia blocks Israeli gymnasts amid Gaza war anger

JAKARTA, 11 OCT

Indonesia has denied visas to Israeli gymnasts, preventing them from competing in the upcoming World Artistic Gymnastics Championship in Jakarta. The event, scheduled for October 19 to 25, will now proceed without Israel's participation. Officials said the decision reflects Indonesia's long-standing policy of not engaging diplomatically with Israel until it recognizes an independent and fully sovereign Palestinian state. Senior legal affairs minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra confirmed that visa requests from the Israeli delegation were rejected following objections from Islamic clerics and civic groups.*—PTI*

2nd Test: Jadeja spins a web, Gill slams a ton

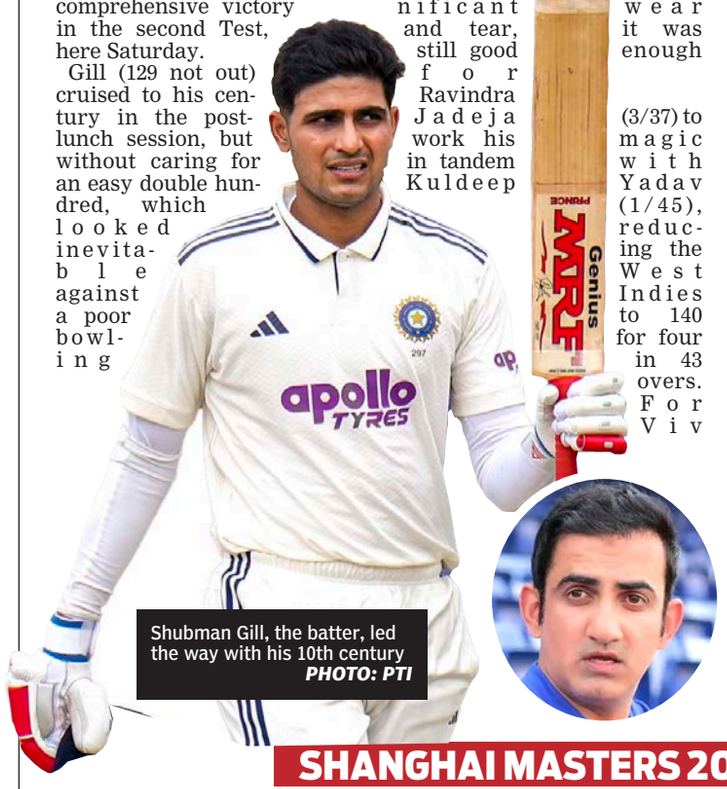
Jadeja's scalps take India towards another early finish

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Shubman Gill, the batter, led the way with his 10th century and then the captain gave his strike-bowler Ravindra Jadeja enough time to tighten the noose on West Indies as India galloped towards another comprehensive victory in the second Test, here Saturday.

Gill (129 not out) cruised to his century in the post-lunch session, but without caring for an easy double hundred, which looked inevitable against a poor bowling attack. He declared the Indian innings with the hosts reaching 518 for five, one hour into post post-lunch session.What stood out on the day was how 'Gill the batter' and 'Gill the skipper' were in perfect sync. Despite the pitch not having any significant wear and tear, it was still good enough for Ravindra Jadeja (3/37) to work his magic in tandem with Kuldeep Yadav (1/45), reducing the West Indies to 140 for four in 43 overs. For Viv Richards and Brian Lara, seated in the stands, watching the application from some of the Caribbean batters certainly wouldn't have been amusing. John Campbell would consider himself extremely unlucky for the way he got dismissed.

Senior spinner Ravindra Jadeja on Saturday said that as the team had only asked for a slow turner, the track at Kotla demands more physical effort and use of the shoulder to get purchase from the pitch. Jadeja got three wickets on the second day but didn't seem too perturbed with the lack of help from the surface.



Shubman Gill, the batter, led the way with his 10th century PHOTO: PTI

Can never forget loss to NZ at home: Gambhir

The 0-3 loss to New Zealand at home last year still haunts India head coach Gautam Gambhir said on Saturday, and he also doesn't want his players to forget that rare drubbing in Tests as they build for the future.

The loss to New Zealand was India's first series defeat in 12 years. "If I am being honest, and speak from the heart, I don't think that in my coaching tenure, I can ever forget that, and I should not forget that. I have told this to the boys as well; it is important to look forward, but sometimes it is also important to remember the past."Everyone thought that we would roll over New Zealand. In that dressing room, we need to keep reminding ourselves that New Zealand happened," Gambhir told JioHotstar.

West Indies 140 for 4 (Athanaze 41, Jadeja 3-37) trail India 518 for 5 dec (Jaiswal 175, Gill 129*, Warrican 3-98) by 378 runs *—PTI*

Ravindra Jadeja PHOTO: PTI

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

India eye sixth bowling option against Australia

VISAKHAPATNAM, 11 OCT

India vs Australia Match starts at 3.00 pm IST

A rattled India needs to be tactically flexible and think about adding a sixth bowling option against reigning champions Australia to steady their wavering Women's World Cup campaign here on Sunday.

The three-wicket defeat against South Africa on Thursday exposed the limitations of sticking to the five-bowler template in all conditions.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur turned to her part-time off-spin in the absence of a sixth bowler, but once the Proteas targeted the pacers past the 40th over, the home side ran out of ideas.

Kranti Gaud and Amanjot Kaur conceded 30 runs in 12 balls across the 47th and 49th overs as South Africa overhauled a 252-run target.

The current Indian bowling line-up contains two right-arm pacers (Gaud, Kaur), two off-spinners (Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana), and a left-arm spinner (Sree Charani).

If the pitch at the ACA-VDCA stadium holds, the strong Aussies batting unit can put this rather unidimensional attack through the wringer with ease.

India will require a proper sixth bowler to summon if a crisis reoccurs, and Harmanpreet's part-time spin is nothing more than cannon fodder against a team like Australia, which has accomplished hitters like Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry, etc. But the selection of the sixth bowler is not a straightforward choice either.

India's bowling reserve

The hosts might prefer to add an extra spinner, if they indeed decide so, because Nadine de Klerk said South Africa had targeted Indian pacers as spinners were able to get some purchase off the deck in the last match here.

They have a left-arm spinner in seasoned Radha Yadav, who is also a reasonable lower-order batter. *—PTI*

SHANGHAI MASTERS 2025

Djokovic stunned by World No. 204 qualifier Vacherot in SFs

SHANGHAI, 11 OCT

Valentin Vacherot earned the biggest win of his career by beating a hobbled Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday to reach the Shanghai Masters final, where he could face his cousin.

The 204th-ranked Vacherot, of Monaco, was an alternate in qualifying but is having a career week.

"Is this real? I don't know," the 26-year-old Vacherot said moments after defeating the 24-time Grand Slam champion. "To have Novak on the other side of the court was, first of all, an unbelievable experience for me."

The 38-year-old Djokovic was slowed throughout the match by a sore hip. He took a medical timeout after falling behind 4-3 in the opening set. He won only one point in the next two games.

Arthur Rinderknech edges Daniil Medvedev

Rinderknech defeated another former champion, Daniil Medvedev, 4-6, 6-2, joining his cousin and fellow Texas A&M Aggies star in the most outstanding title match at this level since 1990!, The Frenchman claimed three points more and made a great comeback after dropping the opener. Rinderknech attacked and landed 47 winners and 40 unforced errors, 6-4 in two hours and 29 minutes. Arthur will compete in his first Masters 1000 final

The scene after Medvedev hit a double fault to end the match was unforgettable. Rinderknech fell to the court in celebration, and Vacherot, who returned to center court to watch the end of the match, held his head in shock. "In the best dreams, we couldn't have dreamt about this, so I can't even say it's a dream, because I don't think even one person in our family dreamt about it," Rinderknech said. "So it wasn't a dream, it's just a dream that came out of nowhere. We started believing it, I would say, in the quarters, maybe.

"Now we are here, we fought through so many matches and somehow we are the [two] guys standing at the end, so it's just incredible." *—PTI*

Arthur Rinderknech PHOTO: PTI

KIMMICH DOUBLES UP AS GERMANY CRUISE PAST LUXEMBOURG

PARIS, 11 OCT

Four-time winners Germany cruised past 10-man Luxembourg .

Captain Joshua Kimmich's double inspired Germany to a 4-0 win over Luxembourg and to the top of Group A on goal difference with Slovakia and Northern Ireland, who await them in Belfast on Monday.

Germany showed the poise and swagger that had abandoned them so far in their World Cup qualifying campaign, losing away in Slovakia for the first time and edging past Northern Ireland at home.

Kimmich converted a first-half penalty and tapped in from close range just after the break.

David Raum's first-half free kick and a Serge Gnabry goal early in the second half secured the Germans an important victory.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann praised his team's "aggression and greed".

"We could have scored one or two more, but it was a deserved win, one we absolutely wanted and needed," he added.

Germany were eliminated at the group stage of the World Cup in 2018 and 2022. *—PTI*

Joshua Kimmich converted a first-half penalty and tapped in from close range as Germany romped to a 4-0 win over Luxembourg PHOTO: X/@LUXEMBOURG

SUHANDINATA CUP: CHINA BEAT INDONESIA

GUWAHATI, 11 OCT

Badminton powerhouse China overcame defending champions Indonesia to clinch the Suhandinata Cup for a record 15th time at the BWF World Junior Championships 2025, while India and Japan settled for bronze medals as losing semi-finalists here on Saturday.

Boasting three reigning Asian Junior Championships gold medallists and two silver medallists, China proved too strong for Indonesia, prevailing 45-30, 45-44 in just over two hours. India and Japan claimed the bronze medals as the losing semi-finalists.

The opening set was one-way traffic after Asian junior girls' doubles champions Cao Zi Han and Chen Fan Shu Tian edged Riska Anggraini and Rinjani Nastine 9-8 in the first match. China then swept the remaining matches to take the set comfortably.

The second set was a tense affair as Riska and Rinjani gave Indonesia an early 9-5 lead.

But Chen Jun Ting and Cao clawed back from 8-13 down, winning 10 of the next 11 points to put China ahead 18-14.

Asian Junior silver medallist Liu Si Ya was stretched by Thalita Wiryawan but held on to maintain a 27-24 lead for China. Indonesia's world junior No. 1 Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah leveled at 27-27, and the scores stayed tight till 31-31. *—PTI*

Parthsarthi, Tavish clinch U16 titles at Fenesta Open

NEW DELHI, 11 OCT

Top seed Parthsarthi Mundhe and eighth seed Tavish Pahwa emerged as champions in the girls and boys U-16 categories respectively at the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship here Saturday.

In the girls' U-16 singles final, Parthsarthi was made to fight hard before defeating Shreeniti Chowdhury 6-0, 3-,6 6-4 in an intense three-setter.

She raced through the opening set without conceding a game, but Shreeniti responded impressively in the second to level the match.

In the decider, the top seed showed nerves of steel after trailing 2-4, winning the next four straight games to seal the title in one hour and 57 minutes at the DLTA Complex.

Meanwhile, in the boys' U-16 singles final, Tavish produced a composed performance to beat Mannan Ashok Agarwal 6-2, 6-3 in straight sets. *—PTI*

Completely fair on Pakistan to prepare spin tracks: Markram

KARACHI, 11 OCT

South African stand-in captain Aiden Markram said on Saturday that the home side, Pakistan, was well within its rights to prepare extreme turning wickets for their two-Test series, which starts in Lahore on Sunday.

As it did last year to beat England.Its 2-1 series win over England a year ago came after it had used a pair of giant wind-breaks, two outsized fans, and six patio heaters to accelerate the deterioration of the pitch and create a surface that offered spinners maximum turn and grip.

It was a successful ploy as it came back from losing the first Test to trump England in conditions that losing captain Ben Stokes called "pretty extreme".

But Markram, who leads South Africa in place of injured skipper Temba Bavuma, said that was all part of the challenge."We saw how things turned out in the English series," he told a press conference on Saturday. "That was obviously Pakistan's way of trying to win, and it's completely fair, and we look forward to that challenge."South Africa had worked hard in preparing, he added, creating wickets with extreme spin to practice on at a training camp before their departure. *—PTI*

Aiden Markram PHOTO: PTI

SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP

India juniors beat Great Britain 3-2

JOHOR BAHRU, 11 OCT

India beats defending champion Great Britain in opener PHOTO: PTI

Captain Rohit led by example with two goals as the Indian junior men's hockey team opened its Sultan of Johor Cup campaign with a 3-2 win over Great Britain here on Saturday.

Rohit (45+', 52') and Ravneet Singh (23') were the goal-scorers for India, while Michael Royden (26') and Kaden Draysey (46') scored for Great Britain.

India will next face New Zealand on SundayThe first quarter saw both sides play an entertaining end-to-end hockey, but neither team could break the deadlock.In the 13th minute, India received their first penalty corner of the day, but they were stopped by the Great Britain rushers.

India showed great attacking intent with multiple circle entries and good attempts on goal, but Great Britain, too, were resilient in their defending.India received another penalty corner in the 16th minute, but the Great Britain goalkeeper protected his goal with great valour by making two back-to-back saves.

India came close to scoring in the 22nd minute, but Manmeet Singh's shot on goal was met with a goalline clearance by Great Britain's defence.However, India finally found their opening goal in the very next minute. Gurjot Singh made a strong run from the right into the circle and passed it through the Great Britain defence to the far post, where Ravneet (23') put the ball into the net in style.

Moments later, in the 26th minute, Great Britain levelled the score with an equaliser. Captain Max Anderson made a run from the right and passed it in the centre for Michael Royden (26'), who slotted the ball in the top left corner. *—PTI*

Clutch Chess Legends match: Kasparov beats Anand 13-11

ST. LOUIS, 11 OCT

Thirty years to the day, history was repeated as Garry Kasparov defeated Viswanathan Anand in the 10th game of the Clutch Chess Legends contest to win the match with two games to spare.

It was in 1995 on October 10 that Anand took a draw in the 18th game to concede the 20-game Classical World Championship match against Kasparov 7.5-10.5 on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center in New York.

As per rules, the last two games under blitz time control were still played, and Anand pulled back two victories, albeit a little too late in the day. The scoreline eventually read 13-11 with Kasparov winning USD 78,000, while Anand took home USD 66,000 in the USD 1,44,000 contest.

Leading the match by five points, Kasparov knew that Anand still had a chance to win the match as the final day had as many as 12 points at stake with each victory worth three points.

Anand started the day with a hard-fought draw and then seized the initiative early in the second game. *—PTI*